DICKEY COUNTY LEADER

The Official Newspaper of Dickey County

Vol. 141, Issue 43 • Ellendale, ND 58436 • 701-349-3222 • dcleader@drtel.net • $1.00 per issue • October 24, 2024

Community Wide
TRUNK OR TREAT!
Main Street, Ellendale
Wednesday, October 30, 5:00 - 7:00 PM
Decorate your car and hand out candy! All are welcome! 3 prizes for scream worthy, best theme, & most unique! Judging at 6:00 pm! Free will donation to play games at a mini minute to win it carnival. Donations will be given to Kedish House

North Dakota volunteers step up for Hurricane Helene victims

Pilots, truckers, businesses answer calls for relief

By Michael Standaert, North Dakota News Cooperative

Several North Dakota pilots, truckers and other businesses voluntarily ferried relief supplies to areas devastated by Hurricane Helene in the past few weeks.

The hurricane tore a wide swath of death and destruction across several southeastern states in late September. It will take months and likely years to rebuild infrastructure, homes and normal lives again.

With over 230 deaths confirmed across six states and nearly 100 still missing in North Carolina alone, the death toll will keep rising.

Casey Veil (left, black shirt) and Treven Iverson (right, sunglasses) of Jamestown pose with volunteers and the supplies they flew into a distribution point in Jefferson, N.C. on Oct. 5. Contributed by Veil.

For one volunteer pilot, the number of small planes in the sky from all across the country was reminiscent of a mini, airborne "Dunkirk" operation -- the famous evacuation of Allied troops from France to the U.K., aided by hundreds of small boats and vessels during WWII.

"The only way to access some of these communities was by small plane," said Casey Veil, a North Dakota pilot who flew supplies to impacted areas. "So it was really neat to see the number of small planes doing the same thing."

Airborne volunteers

Veil and his good friend Treven Iverson of Jamestown flew supplies down on Oct. 4, initially to Mountain City, Tenn., and were then routed by volunteers through Burlington, N.C., to shuttle supplies there.

"I saw a Facebook post of somebody else doing this, and I thought, man, is it really that easy? I can go load up the plane and head down there and potentially help somebody," Veil said.

So that's what he and Iverson did, buying supplies themselves at the local Walmart after checking with an organization called Convoy of Hope to see what was needed.

(continued on page 3)

"Grandpa's White Cane" presentation much appreciated by EPS kids

Story & photos by Ken Smith

"When I was your age I saw normally. I gradually lost my vision. I love to read. It can transport you to places you've never been, and this book that the Lions are giving you is about a man who, like me, was born with good vision, but lost it as he got older, because of glaucoma."

-- Zelda Gebhard of Fargo, Director of the North Dakota Association of the Blind

Last week the kindergarten, first and second grade classes were treated to a special presentation last week, where they learned a situation that affects far more people than is often realized. Zelda Gebhard was accompanied by Crystal Dueker (also of Fargo), a Lions Club representative who is very much engaged with communities like Ellendale.

Zelda has been with the North Dakota Association of the Blind (NDAB) For 21 years; the organization itself goes back about 87 years, and has never lacked for a constructive mission: it's not just for people who are totally blind, but for people facing life with any serious level of diminished vision, and people who care about them. "For some people," she said, "they can't see anything—it's not like their eyes fell out, it's that they don't work. The light bulb is still there, but it's just not shining."

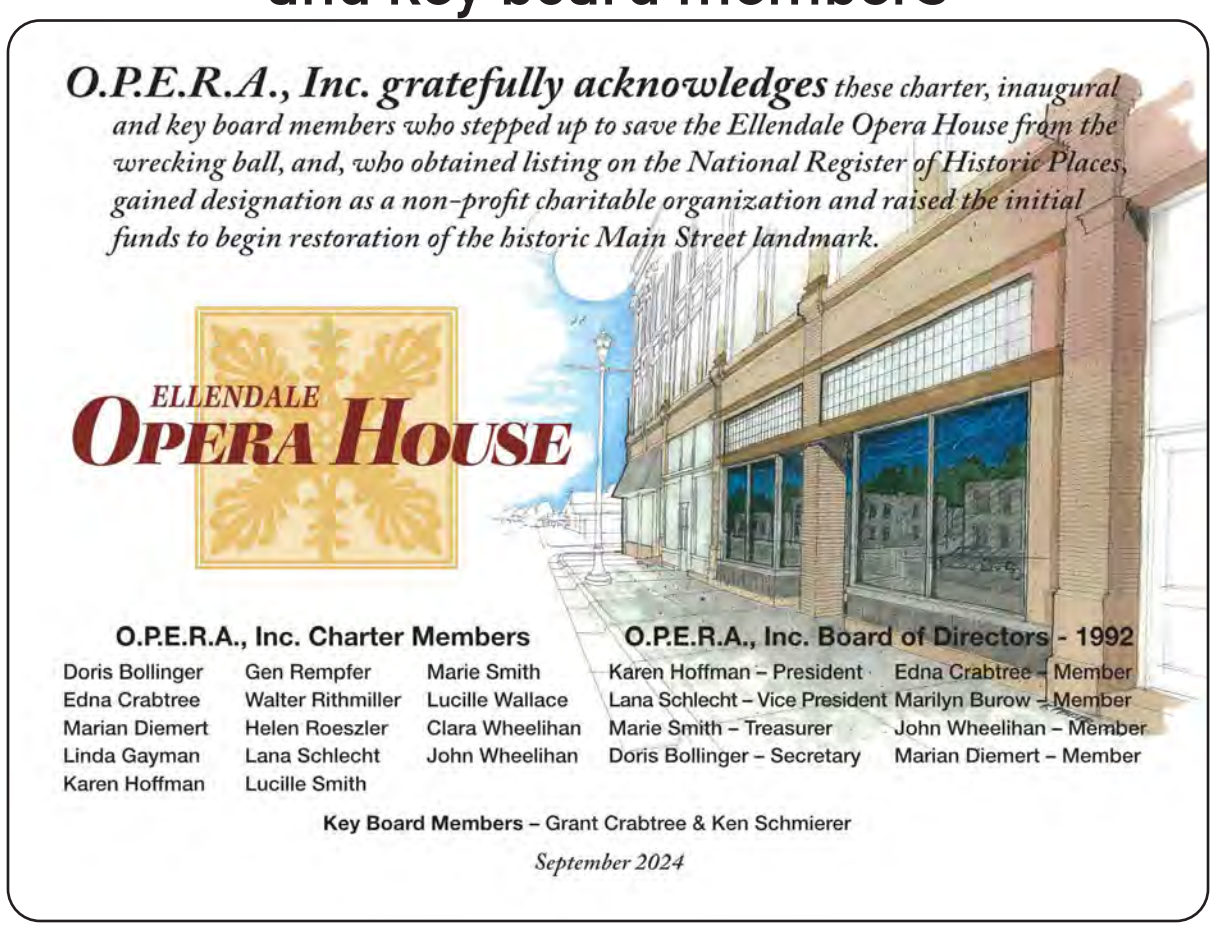
As Zelda explained to the alert and attentive youngsters, she is not entirely blind, but suffers from a disease that severely impairs her ability to discern faces or see traffic on a busy crossing. "I have a genetic disease," she explained, "that creates a problem with my movie screen in my eyeball, my retina."

"When I go to read things," Zelda said, "I don't see them clearly. And when I look at you," she told the kids, "I see lots of bright shiny faces, but I can't see your facial features. I can see the color of your shirts, but I don't see clearly, so I use a white cane. I can see some cars, but I can't tell when it's safe to cross the street or not. So I wait and listen, and then I use my identification cane so the driver can tell that I can't see so well."

(continued on page 3)

In the top photo, Crystal and Zelda were both a big hit with the K-2 students, who asked lots of good questions. Below, Zelda used a volunteer to demonstrate how to properly guide a person with visual impairments who may have difficulty navigating.

O.P.E.R.A. honors charter members and key board members


O.P.E.R.A., Inc. gratefully acknowledges these charter, inaugural and key board members who stepped up to save the Ellendale Opera House from the wrecking ball, and, who obtained listing on the National Register of Historic Places, gained designation as a non-profit charitable organization and raised the initial funds to begin restoration of the historic Main Street landmark.
ELLENDALE
OPERA HOUSE
O.P.E.R.A., Inc. Charter Members
Doris Bollinger
Edna Crabtree
Marian Diemert
Linda Gayman
Karen Hoffman
Gen Rempfer
Walter Rithmiller
Helen Roeszler
Lana Schlecht
Lucille Smith
Marie Smith
Lucille Wallace
Clara Wheelihan
John Wheelihan
O.P.E.R.A., Inc. Board of Directors - 1992
Karen Hoffman – President
Lana Schlecht – Vice President
Marie Smith – Treasurer
Doris Bollinger – Secretary
Edna Crabtree – Member
Marilyn Burow – Member
John Wheelihan – Member
Marian Diemert – Member
Key Board Members – Grant Crabtree & Ken Schmierer
September 2024

Recycling Pick Up / Garbage Pick Up				Recycling Dumpster Pick up / Garbage Dumpster Pick Up			
A	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
B	27	28	29	30	31		

November

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
B						1	2
A	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
B	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
A	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
B	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

O.P.E.R.A., October 16, 2024--During a special event September 27 marking the 115th birthday of the Ellendale Opera House, seven longtime supporters were recognized for their contributions to O.P.E.R.A., Inc., the non-profit organization that owns and operates the facility.

Recognized for their service and dedication were:

• **Marilyn Burow** - O.P.E.R.A., Inc. Board of Director for more than 30 years and one of the original board members in 1992.

• **Grant Crabtree** - Long-time O.P.E.R.A. board member and treasurer of the organization for more than 25 years.

(continued on page 10)

Voters mixed on how Measure 4 would affect seniors

by Mary Steurer, North Dakota Monitor, October 16, 2024

Supporters and opponents of a measure to abolish assessment-based property taxes in North Dakota are at loggerheads over how the proposal would affect the state's retired population.

The ballot measure, which will go before North Dakota voters on Nov. 5, would fundamentally overhaul the state's property tax system, which funds schools, emergency services, parks and other essential government functions.

If the proposal is approved by voters, the state would have to reimburse local governments every year by an amount no less than the property taxes those entities levy for the 2024 tax year.

Steve Moen, a retiree and Grand Forks resident, has been involved in the push to repeal assessment-based property taxes in North Dakota for about a decade. He was on the sponsoring committee that helped put the measure on the ballot.

"The way our taxes are going, if this doesn't pass, there's going to be a lot of elderly citizens losing their homes," Moen said, referring to both tax and cost-of-living increases.

The Social Security Administration recently announced a 2.5% cost of living increase for 2025. The estimated average Social Security retirement benefit will increase by about $50 a month.

Moen said his property taxes have nearly doubled in the past dozen years. Back in 2012, he paid a little over $2,000 in property taxes, he said. By comparison, his property tax bill for 2023 was more than $3,500.

Moen noted that without efforts by the state government to subsidize property taxes, that figure would be much higher. He worries that his bill could suddenly skyrocket if the state decided to reduce or eliminate those subsidies.

In his view, Measure 4 is the only reliable way to keep that from happening.

"Any money that I can keep in my pocket would be a blessing to me," he said.

Les Witkowski of Bismarck said he knows from experience that local governments rely on property taxes to function.

(continued on page 3)

Top: Steve Moen, a Grand Forks resident and retiree, was on the sponsoring committee for Measure 4, which seeks to eliminate assessment-based property taxes. (Courtesy photo); below: Les Witkowski of Bismarck stands in front of his home on Aug. 27, 2024. Witkowski, a retired Burleigh County chief deputy sheriff, opposes Measure 4. (Michael Achterling/ *North Dakota Monitor*)

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FALL VACATION

The *Leader* office will be closed October 18-25 for fall vacation. The paper will be published as normal, as we will be working remotely. Please email us with ads, information or subscription-related topics, etc. at dcleader@drtel.net, or leave a message on our answering machine, 701-349-3222.

Supporters recognized, progress noted at Opera House 115th birthday party

by Ken Smith, photos by Peggy Gilbert

115 years ago Ellendalers accomplished a task that made it the envy of cities throughout the region, whether large or small: they completed a large, well equipped Opera House that would permanently put the town on the map as an entertainment mecca.

This status has been maintained for over a century, as Ellendale still has a reputation for supporting the arts. The effects of time and weather, though, fell heavily on the Opera House in the last decades of the 20th century. But for the last 30 years, a devoted band of supporters, with much encouragement and support from the broader community, have steadily moved the building toward the goal of full restoration. Driving the project is a group called O.P.E.R.A., whose acronym stands for the "Organization of People in Ellendale for the Restoration of the Arts."

On September 27, 2024, O.P.E.R.A. hosted a gala celebration, timed in honor of the building's 115th birthday. At the center of the celebration was recognition of individuals who have played a key role in the progress described above. After the serving of drinks and food, accompanied by music from violinist Laura Berry, emcee Greg Gackle handed out the awards along with comments from Jeanette Robb, who from the beginning has been a spark plug for the restoration effort.

Linda Gayman was honored for her early participation on the board. A family connection kept her interested in the project, as her uncles had been in several plays there and had enjoyed the roller skating. Linda also worked at the Randall grocery store, which was located on the ground level of the Opera House block. "I've always been interested in old buildings and architecture," Linda said. "When I travel, I always look at old buildings and their unique styles, and see how they are being used today."

Karen Hoffman, who in the 1990s was a member of the Ellendale city council, helped organize the restoration committee. The huge project was daunting, and finding money for studies and structural support was difficult. "It seems we took one step forward and two steps back" she said. But Karen cared deeply for the building. If not for her dedication, the building might have been demolished, leaving nothing to restore.

Helen Roeszler was an early supporter, and was honored for her work on the O.P.E.R.A. cookbook. Helen has remained a strong supporter over the years. She and her husband, who are retired farmers, have always been and continue to be good supporters.

(continued on page 3)

"We help where we are needed": EPS staff, local supporters keep things running smoothly while school seeks more staff

Whether their official duty is mainly teaching, assisting teachers, coaching, feeding kids, heading up the administration or keeping the school plant physical clean and functioning, Ellendale Public School staff continue to show a strong work ethic fueled by devotion to the never-ending task of growing an educated student body. Superintendent Chip Sundberg has set that example recently by driving bus and pitching in at the cafeteria. As winter arrives, we won't be surprised to see him driving the school's little green snowblower, as he did often in the winter of 2022-23. These are just a few of the more visible "extra" tasks he takes on. Something similar can be said for the rest of the staff, as they often go beyond the call of duty to make sure gaps are filled when they happen to appear.

At the moment, EPS is advertising positions which, when filled, will allow Mr. Sundberg and other staff to breathe a bit easier. One or more Math Tutors are needed (part time or full time); an Assistant Cook is needed, as is a Bus Driver and a Targeted Support Coordinator. Those interested are urged to apply today: details are at:

www.ellendale.k12.nd.us/employment
or bit.ly/cardsjobs

For more information, please call 701-349-3232.

On another note, the EHS Cards Facebook page reported last week that the Seconds Meal program has received a donation of $6,000 from the Ellendale Veteran's Club & Event Center. A large portion of those funds were raised at the Dueling Pianos event held during AppleFest, and thanks go also to those who showed up to support that event. The Legion's $6,000 gift comes on the heels of a $2,500 donation to the same program from AgCountry, reported in the *Leader* in September.

ROBERT BERNHAGEN EVENT CENT
Herman Schleeker American Legion Post #137
Thank You!
To the Ellendale American Legion Club for the $6000 donation to the EPS Seconds Program!

Recycling Pick Up | Recycling Dumpster Pick up
Garbage Pick Up | Garbage Dumpster Pick Up

October

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
B			1	2	3	4	5
A	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
B	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
A	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
B	27	28	29	30	31		

Thunder rolls to 7-1 season record: EEK tops Northern Cass 35-14

Ivan Carruth pushes through Jaguar defenders for the touchdown. Ivan scored three touchdowns for the Thunder last Friday evening. Below, Drew Thorpe makes a tackle, assisted by Tucker Hahne *(photos by CarolLee Carruth)*

The EEK Thunder certainly have the ingredients for recipe this season, and they seem to have the recipe as well. Their only loss—a sound defeat at the hands of Kindred on September 27—has if anything provided extra determination, as the team's record now stands at 7-1. Their last regular season game tomorrow (October 18) will match them against the powerful Central Cass (Casselton) Squirrels. Like the Thunder, the Squirrels have only lost one game this season.

In the October 11 matchup against the Northern Cass Jaguars, the Thunder ground offense was spearheaded by linemen Ivan Carruth with 95 yards gained in 15 rushes for three touchdowns, Damian Carlson, who gained 89 yards in eight rushes and had one touchdown; and Joe Kramlich, who carried the ball once for a 12 yard gain.

Quarterback Drew Thorpe adapted to Jaguars' strong downfield coverage by running the ball often, gaining 76 yards in 12 carries and taking it across the goal line once. In passing, Thorpe threw the ball eight times, with four receptions and one interception.

On defense, Max Tjernlund had 16 tackles; Damian Carlson had nine tackles; Brogan Young had seven tackles and two interceptions; Tucker Hahne had five tackles and one sack; Eli Klusman had four tackles and one interception; Greg Fuher had five tackles; and Drew Thorpe had six tackles.

Going into their last regular season game, the Thunder bring with them the following record:

8/23/2024	Harvey/WC (Harvey)	W 28-21
8/30/2024	Shiloh (Ellendale)	W 49-13
9/6/2024	Oakes (Ellendale)	W 28-20
9/13/2024	Thompson (Thompson)	W 30-7
9/20/2024	Hillsboro/CV (Edgeley)	W 48-14
9/27/2024	Kindred (Kindred)	L 0-34
10/4/2024	Lisbon (Kulm)	W 36-22
10/11/2024	Northern Cass (Arthur)	W 35-14
10/18/2024	Central Cass (Casselton)	-- --

Armstrong, Piepkorn differ on gun laws, agree on other issues during 2nd gubernatorial debate

By: Michael Achterling, North Dakota Monitor, October 8, 2024

Two candidates in North Dakota's governor's race clashed over gun control, but shared many of the same positions during their second debate of the 2024 election on October 8.

Republican candidate U.S. Rep. Kelly Armstrong and Democratic-NPL candidate Merrill Piepkorn debated the issues for 90 minutes, hosted by KFGO with moderators KFGO News Director Paul Jurgens, *North Dakota Monitor* Editor Amy Dalrymple and *Forum* Communications columnist Jim Shaw.

Gun issues

Armstrong and Piepkorn disagreed on banning binary triggers, which can change a semi-automatic firearm into a faster, automatic-like firing style. The device was used by the shooter during the killing of Fargo police officer Jake Wallin that also injured two other officers and a bystander in July 2023.

Piepkorn said if the Legislature sent him a bill as governor that banned the device, he would sign it.

"I would think that after seeing the results of it, similar to a bump stock, that they would realize that it isn't necessary and it is harmful," Piepkorn said. "In no way does this restrict your Second Amendment rights to own a firearm."

Armstrong said "triggers never pull themselves," and said he's spent six years in Washington pushing back against lawmakers who do want to ban guns that are used in North Dakota for hunting and recreation.

"The single best way we can provide for public safety in the state of North Dakota … we have to get more law enforcement on the grounds," Armstrong said. "If you want to talk about safety … we should quit gaslighting the North Dakota people and the American people, and we should work on issues that you can actually get bipartisan support to pass."

Democratic-NPL Party candidate state Sen. Merrill Piepkorn, right, speaks next to Republican candidate U.S. Rep. Kelly Armstrong during a gubernatorial debate hosted by KFGO in Fargo on Oct. 8, 2024. (Amy Dalrymple/*North Dakota Monitor*)

He added that gun control legislation proposed by Democrats in Washington "is going after the guns."

Piepkorn objected, saying that banning the rapid firing device does not mean "they are coming for your guns next."

"It does not mean that," he said. "It just means keeping a weapon like this out of the hands of criminals, like the one we witnessed here in Fargo.

(continued on page 3)

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(continued from page 1)

Many business establishments cleared their floors for dances. In June 1883, the editor opened the "Leader Hall" to some 100 invited guests "for the twelfth annual anniversary wedding reception and ball of Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Moran." Ice cream and cake were served at 11:30 and dancing, to the music of "Ressigue's Band," continued and "kept up until 2:00."

"Court House Hall"

Prior to the construction of the Opera House, the primary venue for Ellendale's indoor entertainments was the Dickey County Courthouse. The original courthouse, completed in 1885, is not to be confused with the stately domed brick and sandstone structure that replaced it in 1912. It was located on the lot where in 1952 Dickey County Memorial Hospital (now Evergreen Living) was constructed. Designed by an Ellendale pioneer, Edward W. (E. W.) Van Meter, It was 48 feet wide and extended 70 feet from its street-facing entrance. The first floor housed offices to each side of a hall that was nine feet wide. The second floor, accessed by a double flight of oak stairs with a landing halfway up, contained a "court room 47 feet square, two jury rooms and a judge's room," with a fourteen-foot ceiling. For the next two decades, "court house hall" with a floor space under 2,300 square feet, would be the primary civic gathering place for Ellendale, hosting all manner of public meetings, rallies and entertainments. Memorial Day 1885 offered the court house its first overflow crowd: after the extensive parade, "the G. A. R. post. . . the young ladies of the Car of State, societies, and citizens filed into the building until every seat and all the standing room in the large hall was occupied, and hundreds were unable to gain admittance."

The 1886 Fourth of July celebration featured grand entertainment on Main Street, both outdoors and indoors. "The feature of the evening" was "the illumination of the waters of the artesian well, forming a splendid fountain of crystal drops and colored fire." Bonds for the drilling of Ellendale's first artesian well had been approved in an election the previous fall, after considerable agitation. The Ellendale Hose Company, the town's first carefully organized fire department, was eager to demonstrate its capabilities. In the evening of the celebration, "the fire boys came out with the hose cart and gave an exhibition of the powers of the artesian well, and considering that it was only their second appearance they acquitted themselves creditably." After "fireworks, rockets, roman candles and other works" were "shot off in profusion" and "a dozen balloons were sent up," the hose company again showed off the town's newest resource. The men had constructed "a fan shaped nozzle" and fastened it to a post. "When the full force of the well was turned on the water went flying in every direction, and when illuminated by the different colored lights it presented a handsome and pleasing spectacle."

And then, the entertainment moved inside. As reported in the *Leader,* the grand ball in the courthouse was a complement to the spectacular fountain display that preceded it. Considering the limited size of the hall, the numbers seem remarkable: "One hundred and sixty tickets were sold," read the report, "and a small admission fee to spectators increased the receipts to $173.50." And there was more of which to brag: "in the quadrilles twenty-four set were formed on the floor at once, making 192 persons dancing at one time, something never equaled in this western country."

Entertainment at church

Churches—most prominently the Presbyterian, the Methodist, and the Baptist—would regularly host these sorts of events. Among the churches, the Methodist Women's Association seems to have been

The Ellendale Methodist church--seen in the upper right hand corner of this 1884 view from a grain elevator, was a mecca for entertainment. The Methodists' many special programs drew lots of attendees without regard to religious affiliation.

the champion for organizing dances. A February 1895 account titled "The Methodist Entertainment," described a "miscellaneous" program "consisting of both vocal and instrumental music, as well as various recitations, some of which had some physical addenda."

The account suggests that the Ellendale Methodists could be nearly as energetic in their pursuit of entertainment as some of their members were in the cause of temperance. "The entertainment was a success," the correspondent wrote. "There is one thing noticeable in particularly, about these entertainments, and that is that the people have come to believe the Lord loves a cheerful Christian. It is said that Satan peeked in at the church door on Tuesday evening, but seeing so much good nature and cheerfulness, he retired, as he is only looking

(continued on page 10)

AREA EVENTS

- September 27 (Friday): 115th birthday of the Ellendale Opera House: reception from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- September 29 (Sunday): reception in honor of Sharron Brady, at the Veterans Club, 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- September 30 (Monday): girls volleyeball vs. Wyndmere & Lidgerwood--Freshman, 5:00, JV, 6:00, Varsity, 7:30
- October 2 (Wednesday): debate--US Senate candidates Kevin Cramer (R) & Katrina Christiansen (D)--Prairie Public TV & BEK TV, 7:00 p.m.
- October 10 (Thursday): Rep. Kelly Armstrong (R), Sen. Merrill Piepkorn (D) & Michael Coachman (Ind.) gubernatorial debate
- October 17 (Thursday): DRN Annual Supper (4:30) and Meeting (6:00) at EPS

John Wheeler: A matter of the mind

A cloudy afternoon in the 50s in October feels chilly, but the same conditions in March will have us rejoicing in the warmth.

FARGO — Aside from rather subtle effects of temperature and pressure, water freezes and ice melts either side of 32 degrees. However, the way our bodies (and minds) react to chilly weather is not nearly so consistent. A cloudy afternoon in the 50s in October feels chilly, but the same conditions in March will have us rejoicing in the warmth. The difference is human physiology.

Thermoreceptors in our skin send messages to the brain and, after repeated exposure to cold, the brain will react by causing blood vessels in our extremities to constrict. Less blood flow means less cooling of the skin. In short, we get used to the cold. There is even research to suggest that people who spend a lot of time outside in the winter become more cold-tolerant than people who stay inside. However, it should be noted that cold weather tolerance does not make one impervious to hypothermia and frostbite. Water still freezes at 32 degrees.

John Wheeler: Here is a fall color leaf primer just in time for fall

Leaves turning red and yellow is mainly a function of the growing hours of darkness.

FARGO — The appearance of autumn colors in trees is not caused by cool temperatures or frost, as many people believe. Rather, leaves turning red and yellow is mainly a function of the growing hours of darkness.

Deciduous plants reach a certain threshold in the fall in which the nights are so long that cells in the interface between the leaf and the stem stop dividing and growing as they did during summer, creating a growing layer of essentially non-functional cells that can no longer transport minerals from the tree roots to the leaves. Likewise, carbohydrates are no longer passed from the leaves back into the tree. This process happens at the same time every year and has nothing to do with weather. Varying weather conditions year to year can have a large effect on the intensity of the colors and on how long the dying leaves remain on the trees.

Public Notices

SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT FOR PUBLICATION
NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
OFFICE OF SCHOOL FINANCE AND ORGANIZATION
SFN 7618 (06-08)

TO: COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS OR DESIGNEE
After verfication of the items below, please transmit this statement for publication in accordance with NDCC, section 15.1-09-35 t
Name and Address of Official Newspaper of the School District

Dickey County Leader, PO Box 9, Ellendale, ND 58436

The publisher is requested to send a copy of the published statement and the bill for publication to:

Name of Business Manager	School District Name and Number	School District Address
Lana Norton	Ellendale 40 11-040	PO Box 400, Ellendale, ND 58436

	Beginning Fund Balance July 1, 2023	Revenue	Expenditures	Ending Fund Balance June 30, 2024
General Fund	2,040,943.51	5,160,666.70	5,305,013.35	1,896,596.86
Tuition Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
General Fund (01)	2,040,943.51	5,160,666.70	5,305,013.35	1,896,596.86

	Beginning Fund Balance July 1, 2023	Revenue	Expenditures	Ending Fund Balance June 30, 2024
Special Reserve Fund Group (02)	95,421.36	142.41	0.00	95,563.77
Capital Projects Fund Group (03)	648,283.14	71,041.46	0.00	719,324.60
Sinking & Interest Fund Group (04)	233,621.51	318,835.28	271,742.58	280,714.21
Food Service Fund Group (05)	43,404.61	178,211.41	194,281.87	27,334.15
Student Activities Fund Group (06)	103,415.61	167,528.76	158,471.31	112,473.06
Trust and Agency/Consortium Fund (07)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

GENERAL INFORMATION CONCERNING SCHOOL DISTRICT DEBT AS OF JUNE 30, 2024

1. Bonds Outstanding	924,293.67
2. Certificates of Indebtedness Outstanding	0.00
3. Amount Owed to the State School Construction Fund	507,055.97
4. TOTAL INDEBTEDNESS OF DISTRICT - Total of lines 1-3	1,431,349.64

I do solemnly swear that to the best of my knowledge and belief the information within is a true and correct statement of all revenue and expenditures of the school district.

x Lana Norton
Signature of School District Business Manager

This report is found correct in every particular and is hereby approved.

x Michelle Monpe
Signature of School Board President

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF DICKEY COUNTY, STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
In the Matter of the Estate of
EDWARD HAASE, Deceased
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Greg L. Peterson
Bantz, Gosch & Cremer, L.L.C.
305 6th Ave. SE
P.O. Box 970
Aberdeen, SD 57402-0970
(605) 225-2232
ND Bar ID#04830
gpeterson@bantzlaw.com
Attorney for Personal Representative
Probate No. 11-2024-PR-00016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed personal representative of the above estate. All persons having claims against the deceased are required to present their claims within three months after the date of the first publication or mailing of this notice or the claims will be forever barred.

Claims must either be presented to personal representative: Martin Haase at 12954 Ironwood Drive, Aberdeen, SD 57401, or filed with the Court.

Dated this 30th day of August, 2024
Martin Haase
12954 Ironwood Drive
Aberdeen, SD 57401
First publication on the 12TH day of September, 2024.
(September 12, 19 & 26, 2024)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO AMEND NORTH DAKOTA WORKFORCE SAFETY & INSURANCE MEDICAL FEE SCHEDULES
RELATING TO PHARMACY.

WORKFORCE SAFETY & INSURANCE
Board Room
Century Center
1600 East Century Ave
Bismarck ND
Monday, November 4, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. CT

A copy of the proposed amendments to the medical fee schedule may be obtained by writing to Workforce Safety & Insurance, Attn: Harvey Hanel, PO Box 5585, Bismarck, ND 58506-5585 or calling 800-777-5033 or TYY (701) 328-3786. Written comments may be submitted to Workforce Safety & Insurance, Harvey Hanel, Medical Services and Pharmacy Director, P.O. Box 5585, Bismarck, ND 58506-5585, until the close of business, November 8, 2024. If you plan to attend the public hearing and require special accommodation relating to a disability, please contact Workforce Safety & Insurance at the above telephone number or address at least five days prior to the hearing.

Dated this 19th day of September 2024
Harvey Hanel
Medical Services and Pharmacy Director

Ellendale Historical Society

The Ellendale Historical Society will hold its Annual Business Meeting Friday, October 4, at 4:00 at the Coleman Museum. Officer elections will be held and plans for ongoing projects will be discussed. Robin Smith, Treasurer

(September 19 & 26, 2024)

Business & Professional Directory

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No Bingo for the Summer
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DICKEY COUNTY LEADER

The Official Newspaper of Dickey County

Vol. 141, Issue 39 • Ellendale, ND 58436 • 701-349-3222 • dcleader@drtel.net • $1.00 per issue • September 26, 2024

AgCountry donation helps secure EPS Seconds Meal Program

In early January of this year, the EPS school board issued a letter advising the public of their desire to enhance the meal program by providing seconds for ALL students, free of charge in the lunch line each day. "The school board has made a concentrated effort throughout the last few years to place a dedicated focus on student outcomes," the letter read , ensuring that each student is receiving the best opportunity for success, no matter what path they may take following high school. An integral part of that formula for success includes nutrition, and the seconds program is an opportunity for the community to be involved in the future success of our students.

Dustin Pahl of AgCountry Farm Credit Services presents a check to appreciative EPS administrators Lorraine Betting and Lana Norton. The school board initiated the program in 2023 to improve nutritional outcomes in the face of financial constraints.

"How can you help? The school is accepting donations for the seconds program, as well as actively seeking other funding and grant avenues to ensure that this program can continue into the future. This is in addition to the current backpack program that provides nutrition to students after school, on weekends and over school breaks."

AgCountry's $2500 donation is just the latest substantial gift toward keeping the program strong. With inflation in the food sector, however, more will be needed in the future. If you or your business is interested in supporting the EPS Seconds Program, please contact the school office For more information or to partner with the school through a donation or grant opportunity, contact opportunity, contact the school at (701) 349-3232, or contact any school board member.

EHS homecoming week is Sept. 30-Oct. 4: Here's the homecoming court

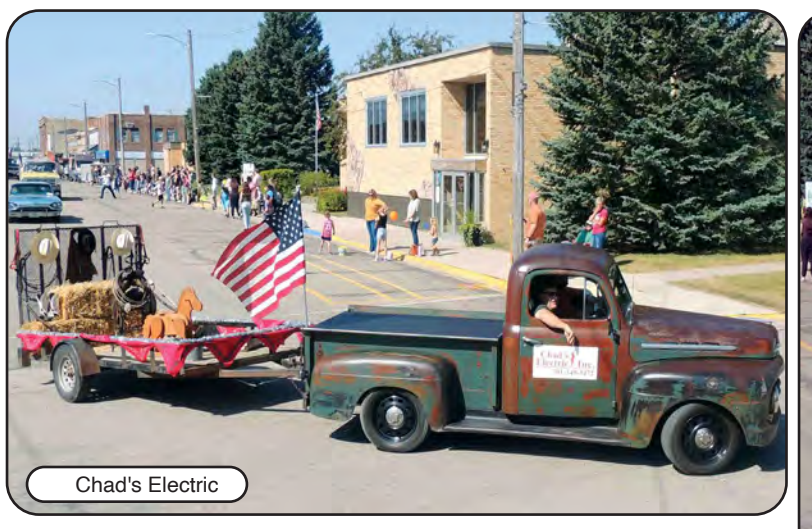
This year's EHS homecoming court includes (back row): Ariel Hagen, Haven Greenley, Angelina Gonzalez, Ethan Townsend, Brooke Olson, Carter Gibson, and Aiden Miller. In the front row are Kaisa Lematta, Evan Wagner, and Ava Henning. The Homecoming Coronation is at 1:30 pm, Monday, September 30. The Homecoming Parade is at 1:30 pm, Friday, October 4. The Homecoming Pep Rally is at 3:00 pm, Friday, Oct 4.

Local police, ambulance and fire & rescue were honored to lead the parade, with lights and sirens.

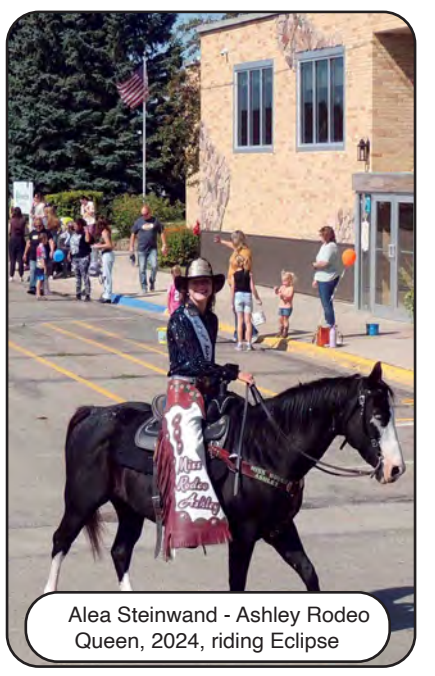
Amid the fun, Applefest featured royalty

Following a long tradition, Benedictine Living Center - Ellendale and Evergreen both crowned a king and queen for the 2024 Applefest. Warren Freeman and Joan Jones (left) were chosen as royalty for BLC, and Royali Dennis Leppert and JoAnn Porter received the honor for Evergreen. Both couples were featured on an Applefest float (see page 11). photos courtesy of BLC-Ellendale

2024 Applefest parade was a good one



Chad's Electric



Alea Steinwand - Ashley Rodeo Queen, 2024, riding Eclipse

Applied Digital

Brenda & her pups

The 2024 Applefest parade featured 38 entries and had the largest attendance of any in memory. It would be hard to guess how many pounds of candy were tossed out, how many smiles and waves went back and forth from floats to attendees, or how many hours went into preparing all the floats. The numbers would be big ones.

This year, Applefest planners designated three winning categories. Applied Digital won for *most creative*, with a float featuring employees beneath a big arch made of black-and-white balloons, and a giant computer server. *Most traditional* was a giant apple tree (complete with apples) towed by Gage Miller driving a small vintage John Deere garden tractor. Chad's Electric won the most "yee-haw" prize with an antique pickup sporting a big American flag and with a wooden horse, cowboy hats, bales and a lasso.

Entertainment helped define Ellendale long before the Opera House was built

By Ken Smith

At 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. this Friday (September 27), there will be a reception at the Opera House lobby to celebrate the 115th birthday of this remarkable building. In honor of the landmark, the Leader offers a brief historical look at entertainments in our town during the early decades.

The Ellendale Opera house—reportedly the largest of its kind between Minneapolis and Seattle—was a product of a robust entertainment culture that was brought here by the earliest pioneers. Appreciation for music, drama, art and literature grew as the town prospered. In the 1880s and 1890s, the town's newspapers (Dickey County Leader, Ellendale Commercial, and North Dakota Record) carried innumerable accounts of local entertainments and cultural events. These papers carried frequent references regarding the need for an opera house.

A disastrous west side fire of 1907 cleared the ground for the new building, which was a very bold undertaking, financially and otherwise. It housed commercial outlets, services, and community organizations, and provided an entertainment venue that could seated over 900. The Opera House significantly enhanced local arts and entertainment efforts, and attracted a steady stream of nationally famous and often world famous shows and speakers.

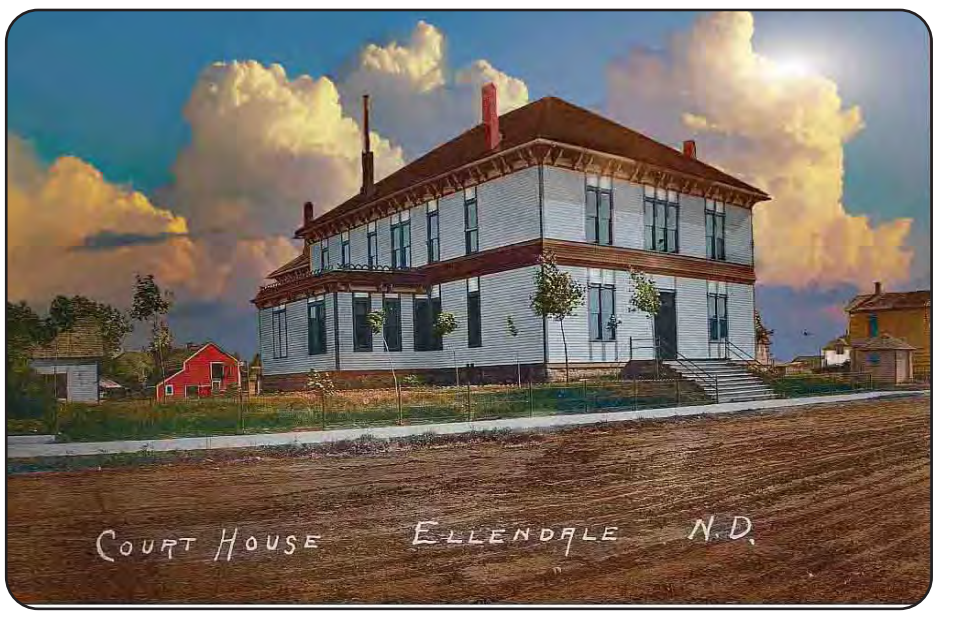
In this article, we step back into a simpler time, without the electronic entertainments that surround us today. And yet it seems to have been, in many ways, more sophisticated in its appreciation for the arts. It's a chapter in our local history that's worth recalling.

A passion for entertainment has been a defining characteristic of Ellendale from its founding in 1882 right up to the present. Entertainment could involve one or a few persons, a club with a dozen or so members (of which Ellendale had many), or a big crowd. One could be "entertained" by watching others dance, or by joining in the dance oneself. It could be competitive or not competitive. It could be indoors or outdoors. It could take place in a local hall or the county courthouse, the prime venue for indoor events up until the construction of the Opera House. It could happen in a church, in a home or front yard, in the city streets, in a barn, or out on the grassy prairie. It could refer to passively observing a baseball game, or to actively participating in that or another sport.

Music

Ellendale in the early years was home to numerous musical groups, and such groups were in demand for all manner of occasions. The twelve members of Ellendale's cornet band, with their three-plunger brass trumpets, were the closest thing to the town's official musical ambassadors. Numerous other bands, often with interchangeable musicians, formed over the years. In April 1896—an extremely active election year—the *Leader* noted, with a touch of humor, that "Ellendale has a city band, a populist band, and in about a week will have a Republican band, and now the democrats threaten to organize a fourth band, and still the people are expected to look cheerful."

Somewhat more appreciation was extended in 1898 to "the band under the leadership of Professor Stern." The "sweet strains of music the boys give us nearly every evening," opined the *Leader*, "is highly appreciated by our citizens." The *Leader* noted also that the band would accompany the special train excursion to Ortonville, Minnesota, that was planned for that June.



The original Dickey County courthouse, built in 1885, was located on the corner lot where Memorial Hospital (now Evergreen) opened in 1952. For many years the largest indoor venue in town, the courthouse wasn't just for legal business: it hosted a remarkable variety of public events, including dances, plays and stage entertainments, orchestras, choirs, lectures, campaign speeches, and even winter athletic practices. It was not uncommon for large overflow crowds to gather outside so they could hear speeches or music The limited space of the courthouse was a strong argument to the community in favor of building an opera house with ample room for large audiences. (photo courtesy of the Coleman Museum, enhancement by Kevin Kendall)

In the pages of the earliest *Leaders,* there are dozens of references to dances lasting to midnight or beyond. People from the countryside often flocked to town to dance to their sounds. If the dance was in a barn in the countryside, town people headed out eagerly and often did not return until daylight.

(continued on page 4)

Recycling Pick Up | Recycling Dumpster Pick up
Garbage Pick Up | Garbage Dumpster Pick Up

October

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
B			1	2	3	4	5
A	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
B	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
A	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
B	27	28	29	30	31		

LEADER

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Sharron Brady retiring after 37 years with Kedish House

By Amie Britz, Communications & Public Relations Coordinator at CAWS North Dakota

Sharron Brady once had to find a safe house for horses.

As the Project Director of Kedish House in Ellendale, part of her job was to help safe house victims of domestic violence. And oftentimes, as many domestic violence victim advocates will tell you, pets are also abused in homes where there is domestic violence.

Sharron recalled many times where she found safe housing arrangements for victims and their families, including pets like dogs, cats, birds, fish, and yes, horses. When necessary, she even safely housed victims and survivors in her own home.

"There was a lot less money back then," she said, referring to the amount of funding Kedish House once had. "I used to safe house people at my house because it was some place to put them when we didn't have money to put them in a motel or anything."

In the case of the horses, Sharron said that other arrangements were made with a friend of the victim to keep them safe.

"I never did have to actually do that," she said, referring to getting the horses to a safe home.

"But I did find a place for them."

Now, after 37 years with the organization, Sharron is retiring from Kedish House.

The organization

Kedish House assists victims of domestic violence and sexual assault with safety planning, emergency housing, crisis intervention, legal advocacy, emotional support, and more. The organization serves Logan, McIntosh, Dickey, LaMoure and Sargent counties.

Sharron Brady has had to deal with many very serious situations over the years, but that is just one part of her life. She is known by her friends for her kindness, vibrant personality, good humor, and deep love for the area and its people.

(continued on page 9)

Improvements at Forbes museum, in time for the Fourth of July celebration!

Recent months and weeks have seen much progress at the hands of volunteers and contractors at the Museum in Forbes. Improvements include new paneling on the west wall, repainting, cleaning, and upgrading displays to a condition commensurate with the lovely new windows that were installed in 2021.

Joan Hoffman, who supplied these photos, is excited at the Progress. "Our 2023 fund raiser," she said, "was an exciting kickoff for the 2024 changes and updates. Thank you to everyone who has supported the work of the Couteau Hills Historical Center in their mission to preserve and share history for generations to come. Volunteers are the foundation of this project, both financially and labor wise. ***Thank you!"***

Following long-standing tradition, Forbes will be the center of celebration in western Dickey County for Independence Day.

The parade starts at 10:30, float registration at 9:30. The streets will be thronged with celebrants. Good food will be available for those wanting to have a lunch afterward. At dusk, a large fireworks display will be held. *Forbes is the place to be today!*

Looking good! (July 2023)

Josh Nitschke and Kimber Hoffman, contractors who put up the pine

Linda Krage and Evelyn Fuller working on displays

detail work

Skilled hands for a big project

Ellendale Opera House fund drive to build on 2023 restorations success; window sponsorships available

After completing its largest restoration project ever last year, Ellendale Opera House supporters are now seeking to raise $75,000 toward renovation of the Main Street storefronts for expanded community use.

Last year, O.P.E.R.A., Inc.--the non-profit organization that owns and operates the opera house--completed a major restoration of the west wall and foundation of the 115-year-old landmark.

Electrical service to the building also was upgraded and the Main Street facade of the building was cleaned and restored.

This year's *Building on Success* fund drive offers donors the opportunity to help fund restoration of the building's eighteen Main Street windows.

Old plywood coverings of the windows were removed last year when the facade was cleaned and material not original to the storefronts removed.

By being a sponsor/donor, the individual would have his/her name (or a memorial dedication for a family member) permanently affixed to a window. The donation also would be recognized with an engraved plaque in the opera house gallery.

Full sponsorship for a window restoration is $5,000; half sponsorships ($2,500 donation) of a window restoration also is available.

Other large naming/sponsorships opportunities for restoration of other parts of the building are available.

For details, contact Justin at 701-535-0347.

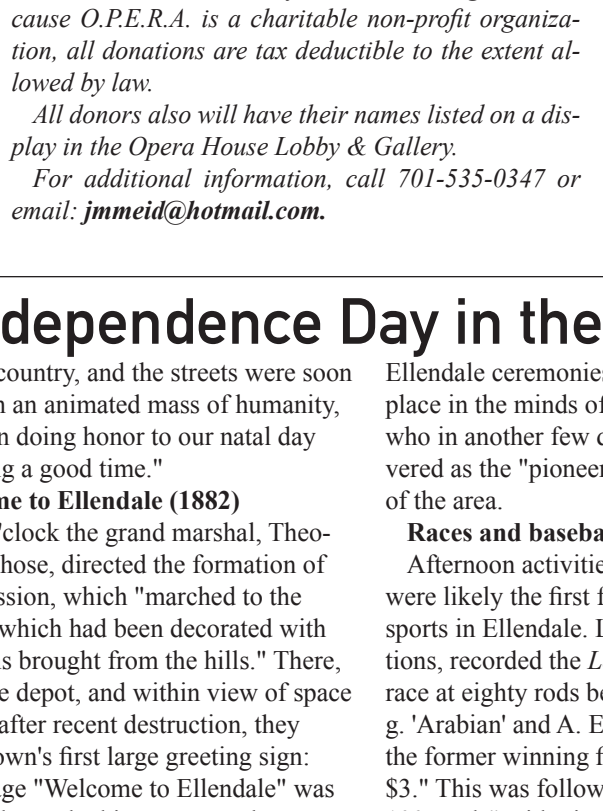
This year's fund drive options/incentives include:

•"Acres for O.P.E.R.A." to encourage farm owners to donate a portion of their crop to the non-profit organization. Such direct grain donations can provide tax benefits. (Farm owners should consult a tax professional to determine if the program would benefit them.)

•Donors contributing more than $300 between now and December 31 will receive a newly designed O.P.E.R.A. coffee mug.

To contribute to the Building on Success, mail your donation to O.P.E.R.A., Inc. at P.O. Box 334, Ellendale, ND 58436, or donate online at:

www.ellendaleoperahouse.com.



The west wall, now straight and solid with a new foundation after work in 2023, was recently enhanced with a new sidewalk and landscaping.

O.P.E.R.A. - Organization of People in Ellendale for Restoration of the Arts - was formed in 1992 to save the Main Street landmark from the wrecking ball. Because O.P.E.R.A. is a charitable non-profit organization, all donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

All donors also will have their names listed on a display in the Opera House Lobby & Gallery.

For additional information, call 701-535-0347 or email: ***jmmeid@hotmail.com.***

4th of July Parade
Join us in Forbes, ND for our annual 4th of July parade @ 10:30 AM.
If you would like to enter the parade, please meet at the elevator on the south end of town at 9:30 to register.
Don't forget, Fireworks at Dusk

Independence Day in the 1880s, part 3: The events

Editor's Note: This is the final installment in our series examining the nature and importance of early Fourth of July celebrations, and suggesting their ongoing importance.

By Ken Smith

In its July 7, 1882 issue, the *Dickey County Leader* devoted considerable space to a record of Ellendale first "Glorious Fourth." It was said the *Leader*, "an occasion long to be remembered by all who participated in it," and it would set a precedent for countless future celebrations.

"The morning dawned bright and clear" and the call to festivities came early. "At sunrise the national salute was fired," and guests soon arrived. "At an early hour wagon loads of people began to come in from the country, and the streets were soon filled with an animated mass of humanity, all bent on doing honor to our natal day and having a good time."

Welcome to Ellendale (1882)

At 11 o'clock the grand marshal, Theodore A. Chose, directed the formation of the procession, which "marched to the pavilion, which had been decorated with evergreens brought from the hills." There, next to the depot, and within view of space tidied up after recent destruction, they saw the town's first large greeting sign: the message "Welcome to Ellendale" was "artistically worked in evergreen letters by the ladies and placed at the rear of the stage."

Formal exercises began with "America" sung by a quartette consisting of Mrs. W. R. Sarles, F. S. Dugar, Dr. W. E. Duncan, and J. R. McVean. Next, Mrs. Sarles read the Declaration of Independence, her "voice being loud and clear." Then "Columbia" was sung, and then was an "eloquent oration, the best we have heard for a number of years" by "Hon. W. H. Becker." The singing of patriotic songs, the reading of the Declaration, and the delivery of a patriotic speech were all standard fare for most of the attendees, but these inaugural Ellendale ceremonies would hold a special place in the minds of the men and women who in another few decades would be revered as the "pioneers" and "Old Settlers" of the area.

Races and baseball (1882)

Afternoon activities began with what were likely the first formally organized sports in Ellendale. Leading the attractions, recorded the *Leader*, was "a horse race at eighty rods between Abram Lin's g. 'Arabian' and A. E. Bishop's c.m. 'Nell,' the former winning first money, $5, second $3." This was followed by "a foot race of 100 yards" with nine contestants, yielding prizes of one to three dollars for the first three finishers. Five contestants entered the next event—the sack race—for the same prize amounts.

Later in the afternoon a baseball game was organized, the first on record for Ellendale. Captains W. H. Foster and C. R. Valette each picked nine players just before the start. "On account of the lateness of the hour," the article noted, "only four innings were played." It was a real contest nonetheless. Foster's team scored a run in each of the second, third, and fourth innings. Valette's men did not score until the third inning, but overtook their opponents in the fourth inning with three runs. Vallete's men took the five-dollar prize with a four-to-three win.

The first Fourth of July dance (1882)

Descriptions of the 1882 Fourth of July celebration made note of a social custom that locals cherished from the very beginning: dancing. "Ellendale's first social dance," the *Leader* reported, had taken place on June 9. This event, though, evidently did not merit the more illustrious designation of "ball," which was reserved for a much bigger event on the Fourth. The *Leader* did report that "in the evening," following the Independence Day activities "there was a ball, at which the attendance was large, [with] enough ladies being present to dance five set. The music was good and the occasion was enjoyed by all."

Baseball contests were almost always on the agenda at early Fourth of July celebrations in the Dakotas, and Ellendale was no exception. (AI image by Bing/Copilot)

Nearly a decade later, an Ellendale pioneer recalled that dance in a somewhat more picturesque way. The dance, he remembered, was short on females, but long on endurance. "There wasn't women enough so every man could have one to dance with," he said, "so some of us had to double-stag. The dance kept up till daylight next morning and we did have a great time. It would rain a little and then we'd dance a little to dry the floor, and then it would rain a little more. Made me think of a man trying to sharpen his scythe without any tobacker in his mouth to make spit—he had to spit a little and whet a little, spit a little and whet a little." *(DCL, July 9, 1891)*

(continued on page 3)

Recycling Pick Up	Recycling Dumpster Pick up
Garbage Pick Up	Garbage Dumpster Pick Up

July

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
A		1	2	3	4	5	6
B	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
A	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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Farmers Union / Lematta agency supports Ellendale baseball

An a bright, breezy day last week, Farmers Union Insurance agent Jarrod Lematta and Ellendale Baseball board member Andy Wertz met behind home plate at the baseball park south of town. They were there to formalize a generous donation that will bring even more improvements to the facility. Behind them are the gleaming, sturdy grandstands that a year ago replaced the old wooden stands that were much in need of replacement. The modern aluminum structure is not only strong and good looking, it is guaranteed not to jab spectators with wooden splinters.

The official press release accompanying the donation reads as follows: "Farmers Union insurance has partnered with Jarrod Lematta as a local agent in Ellendale to provide naming rights sponsorship with the Ellendale baseball board to help finish the needed remodel/additions to the Ellendale baseball park. This project fits our mission of building stronger communities by supporting projects that impact youth and rural communities."

Thanks to Jarrod and to Farmers Union for their ongoing support for our youth and community!

"Exciting things are happening": State Historical Society Director points to progress in Ellendale and around North Dakota

BUILDING OUR FUTURE
& PRESERVING OUR PAST
Restoring the historic Opera House isn't simply preserving the past, but building a better quality of life and future for our community and region.
PHASE I IMPROVEMENTS

State Historical Society Director Bill Peterson expressed praise and ongoing support for the Opera House restoration, which he described as an excellent example of what his agency strives to encourage.

Leader readers and pretty much anyone familiar with our area knows that Ellendalers have done a good job of holding on to their local history. This is perhaps best illustrated by their perseverance in preserving and restoring the Opera House on West Main Street. Over the years, the *Leader* has worked to inform readers of special events there as well as progress on the restoration, and to encourage support for both of these.

O.P.E.R.A. board members and a number of guests came last Saturday morning to participate in the organization's annual meeting and to hear an encouraging word from the man who might be called North Dakotas "Historian in Chief." Bill Peterson is the director of the North Dakota State Historical Society in Bismarck, and also serves as State Historic Preservation Officer. In these roles he oversees 59 museums and historic sites, and helps coordinate an array of efforts to both preserve North Dakota history and make it accessible to the public.

Chairing the O.P.E.R.A. board meeting, Greg Gackle expressed appreciation to the many volunteers and donors who have kept the restoration moving forward during the last year, which proved to be a challenging one. As it turned out, the $250,000 grant from the legislature, which came about largely through the efforts of District 26 representative Jim Grueneich (who was present at the meeting), came at just the right time. This is because last spring, defects were discovered in the west wall and foundation that required costly repair work stretching into the early winter. Now, with the walls and underlaying foundation secure, renovation of the store fronts will soon be underway.

Gackle also noted the completion of a major wiring project, done by Chad's Electric, that brought the building up to code in terms of electrical service. Meanwhile the lobby has been in almost continuous use for special programs, art displays, and community meetings.

Gackle introduced Bill Peterson as an individual who has been extremely helpful in O.P.E.R.A.'s endeavors. Bill's brief talk revealed his passion for history generally, and his steady commitment to the sometimes overwhelming task of maintaining and upgrading historical resources around the state. ***(continued on page 3)***

Active Entrepreneurship, community orientation is key to bringing "Agroecology" concepts to life: Market access, red tape challenges persist

By Michael Standaert
North Dakota News Cooperative

For 29-year-old Joanna Larson, the desire to return home to take part in the operation of her family farm in Sheyenne has as much to do with building community as it does with farming. A strong independent streak also doesn't hurt.

She'd like to see things done differently and wants to put her stamp on the farm and further afield.

That includes eventually transitioning to more sustainable agricultural practices at the family farm.

"I'm about food, not fuel," Larson said about the widespread practice of growing energy and commodity crops of corn, soybeans and wheat across the state. "I know it's profitable and know that if you're careful you can build soil fertility, but I don't think that long term that's right for our world or our country."

Generational shifts

Larson is one of a small but growing number of new and beginning farmers coming of age as their baby boomer parents retire or desire to, and many would like to see a renewed focus on the local and the sustainable.

They see the hollowing out of rural communities, the spread of food deserts and grocery stores closing in a sea of bountiful agricultural production and wonder if that must be the reality.

Wife and husband team Julia and Kelly Seiller, who have recently completed a Farm Beginnings course offered at the Foundation for Agricultural and Rural Resources Management and Sustainability in Minot, are new farmers hoping to supply diversified produce to their local community in this sustainable way.

After recently returning to the family farm, Joanna Larson of Sheyenne aims to supply fresh-cut flowers and produce to regional florists and the local farmers market and help regenerate the local food system. While most of the flowers and produce remains indoors out of frost fears, some hardier plants are getting a head start outside.

Located just west of Williston, the Seillers plan to tap into the local farmer's market and establish a community supported agriculture (CSA) subscription service this summer. They also hope to eventually have in-ground greenhouses for year-round production.

(continued on page 3)

"Wandermore": Small town enthusiast begins documenting visits to 355 North Dakota towns

Nebraska native Seth Varner has made an early life career out of his love for travel. Seth came through Ellendale on April 16 and the *Leader* treated him to lunch at the new Nodak. The hot creamy soup and big ham sandwich were nice comfort foods for a slow rainy day, but they seemed to just add to the excitement that Seth brings to his unusual work.

After visiting and roaming around town, Seth posted to his Facebook page some 100 photos he snapped while in Ellendale. And then it was on to other destinations, which he documented with more photos. Seth's work has been the subject of many articles, including the one that follows.

By Michael McGurran

FARGO — He is visiting North Dakota towns. 355 of them, to be precise.

A young man from Nebraska is on a mission: Visiting and promoting tourism in states that might not get as much name recognition as some of their larger neighbors.

He has visited four states so far. Now Seth Varner has set his sights on his next destination — The Peace Garden State.

"I have spent five minutes of my life in North Dakota, up to this point, to get a picture with the welcome sign two years ago," Varner joked in a March interview.

Varner is a small-town Nebraska kid with a lifelong travel bug. He even planned the family vacations as a kid.

"My dad's so busy, he was like, 'Seth, if you don't plan the trip, we're probably not going to go. Like realistically,'" Varner said. "So I was like, 'Fine, I'll plan the whole thing.'"

He said it will be a multi-month trip across 355 incorporated communities in North Dakota. From Abrecombie, to Zeeland. Instead of exploring overseas, or a tropical paradise, his interest lies in so-called flyover states.

"I always thought the same thing growing up," Varner said. "I was like, 'Oh, I live in a little podunk town in the middle of nowhere. There's nothing to do.' But as I actually dug into these towns, what you'll find is there's a lot of stories embedded within each community."

On his journeys, he picks up stories, becoming a sort of Midwestern historian. As he travels, he writes. This 23-year-old has written four books so far, based on his travels in Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa and South Dakota.

You can keep track of his travels on his Facebook page, "Wandermore in North Dakota" You can also find more information on his other travels and his books at Wandermorepublishing.com.

While he's looking forward to exploring Fargo, Bismarck, and Grand Forks, he said many of the sweetest memories are made in trails off the beaten path.

"Every little community has something it's prideful about. Whether it's a historical tidbit, a cool museum, an awesome roadside attraction," Varner said.

He'll be starting in April, and is hopeful to dodge whatever remains of winter. Then the journey begins as he looks for stories, memories and history tucked away in the quietest corners.

"I'm biased, but I always say Midwest is the best," Varner said.

Seth Varner has a carefully coordinated travel plan for visiting North Dakota's 355 incorporated towns. When he visited Ellendale on April 16, he was fresh off of visiting several other towns, but his enthusiasm for his mission was not at all diminished. That same enthusiasm showed clearly in his subsequent Facebook posts, as he headed east for more small town visits:
www.facebook.com/WandermoreNorthDakota

Landfill hours for residential cleanup announced: May 6-18

The Ellendale City Council has announced official hours for the opening of the landfill/dump area for the annual spring cleanup. As has been the case for several years, there will be no citywide curb cleanup.

The inert landfill is authorized for wood, metal, large and small appliances, electronics, tires and pit material. Pit material includes mattresses, box springs, tables, chairs, couches, bathroom fixtures, empty plastic pails and shingles.

If you have any questions please call city hall at 349-3252 before you take out your items.

If you are thinking ahead through the summer months, you might want to make a note that a fall cleanup has also been scheduled and will run from October 7 through October 19.

Recycling Pick Up	Recycling Dumpster Pick up
Garbage Pick Up	Garbage Dumpster Pick Up

May

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
B				1	2	3	4
A	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
B	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
A	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
B	26	27	28	29	30	31	

May 6 .....3 PM to 8 PM
May 7 ..... 8 AM to Noon
May 8 ..... 3 PM to 8 PM
May 9 ..... 8 AM to Noon
May 10..... Noon to 4 PM
May 11 ..... 10 AM to 4 PM
May 12 ..... CLOSED
May 13 ..... 3 PM to 8 PM
May 14 ..... 8 AM to Noon
May 15 ..... 3 PM to 8 PM
May 16 ..... 8 AM to Noon
May 17 ..... Noon to 4 PM
May 18 .....10 AM to 4 PM

DICKEY COUNTY LEADER

The Official Newspaper of Dickey County

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Kade Schimke selected for the Euro Cup Tour

Cards basketball standout Kade Schimke has been selected by PhD Hoops to represent the United States of America in international basketball competition on the Euro Cup Tour 18U Team in Spain, June 2024.

"It's an honor to be the first player from North Dakota to represent the USA at the EURO Cup," Kade said. "I am excited to play with my new teammates, learn and play the FIBA rules."

"It will also be neat to learn and play for Coach McGruder, Mayville's head basketball coach," he continued. "His coaching style really fits my game."

Out of a pool of athletes, Kade was chosen for this tour based on his playing ability, character, and desire to be a part of this once-in-a-lifetime experience. "This will be a great experience not just playing basketball but to see and explore Spain."

PhD Hoops Travel Tours believes in the development of young players both on and off the court, combining the thrill of international basketball competition with a cultural education that lasts a lifetime. The PhD Hoops staff has a long history of leading players and family members across different continents to enjoy this unique experience abroad and takes great pride in selecting players who are the right fit to represent the USA in the highest regard.

More information boutthe program is at **www.PhDHoops.com/traveltours**

An encouraging word about featured speaker at EPS

Hunter Pinke, a captain of the University of Arizona men's wheelchair basketball team, played in his final collegiate wheelchair basketball tournament at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall, Minnesota. Katie Pinke / Agweek photo taken on March 14, 2024.

Editor's note: In December 2022, just before Christmas break, students at the Ellendale Public School heard from a very special guest--Hunter Pinke, a star athlete from Wishek who played for the university of North Dakota before a tragic skiing accident left him a paraplegic. Hunter's presentation was dramatic and encouraging. It gave everyone present a different and better way to think about life and the troubles that can come with it. Hunter has spoken at numerous school assemblies with his message of life and hope. This update, written by his mother, shows that he is still on track, facing life's challenges with courage and optimism.

(article on page 3)

Student costs are rising on ND campuses; so are tuition waivers

By Robin Huebner

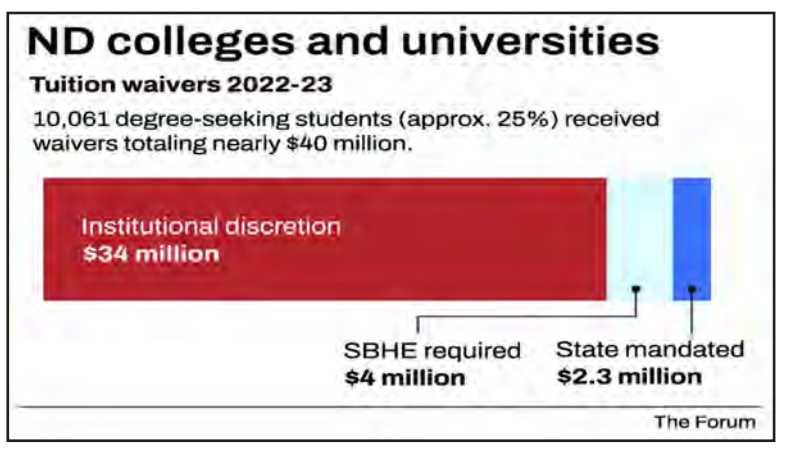
BISMARCK — Students at North Dakota's 11 colleges and universities will face mostly low-single digit percentage increases in the cost of their education beginning this fall.

Schools are finalizing tuition, fees, housing and food rates for the 2024-25 academic year, which were presented at the State Board of Higher Education budget and finance committee meeting on March 13.

Base undergraduate tuition will not increase for 2024-25 under a bill passed by the Legislature in 2023.

However, housing and food rates will go up at all North Dakota colleges and universities, while certain mandatory fees will increase at about half of the schools, according to documents presented at the meeting.

Total proposed increases for 2024-25 range from a low of 1.6%, or $354, at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, to a high of 4.3%, or $544.83, at North Dakota State College of Science in Wahpeton and Fargo. ***(continued on page 3)***



Recycling Pick Up | Recycling Dumpster Pick up
Garbage Pick Up | Garbage Dumpster Pick Up

April

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
B		1	2	3	4	5	6
A	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
B	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
A	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
B	28	29	30				

One of ND's Best: Jesse Veeder shared ranch life in word and song

Ellendale got a special treat last Wednesday, as multitalented singer, songwriter, ranch mom and essayist Jesse Veeder (accompanied by her father) performed at Benedictine and Evergreen, and gave a strong 90-minute concert at the Opera House.

"When I was here several years ago this place really made a big impression on me," said Jesse. "You have this really wonderful facility, this piece of history, right here on Main Street, and you've put in the effort and love and care to preserve it. That's a big undertaking, and so important." Jesse added that she "took some of that inspiration back" to her own community and began developing an arts group.

"For those of you who don't know much about me," she explained, "I'm from way western North Dakota around Watford City. I grew up on a ranch there--4th generation, 114 year old ranch." About fifteen years ago she and her husband moved back to the family ranch, reconnecting with the sights and sounds, routines--and memories and friends that form the basis for most of her writing.

Currently, her main life calling is raising two daughters with her husband. Ranch life provides Jesse with abundant material for original songs and for a weekly column, which is published in newspapers around the region. Her Ellendale audiences were enthusiastic not just about her songs, but about the very relatable stories she weaved in between them.

One of the main themes of her evening presentation was Watford City's transformation from a little ranch town to the hub of a booming oil industry.

Jesse began her evening song with "Love at the Five and Dime" by Nanci Griffith, which she learned as a young girl and still loves to sing. Appreciation for old familiar things --like this song--is one of the appeals of her own compositions, which though brand new, evoke familiar, friendly thoughts and memories.

Jesse's essays and links to her podcast and other materials can be accessed at **veederranch.com**. She was pleased--as we hope our readers will be--to know that beginning next week, the *Leader* will be running her regular column in our pages.

Alex & Rebecca Webb Exhibit on display here, April 8-26

This month area residents will have a chance to view works by two of the most internationally renowned photographers ever to do a photography tour of the Dakotas. Titled *The Great Open: Photographs from North Dakota*, it is described as "a captivating showcase that invites viewers to delve into the essence of North Dakota's landscape, people, and way of life through a collection of stunning photographs."

Planned viewing hours are 1:00-6:00 Wednesday through Saturday at the Opera House.

Alex Webb, a prolific photographer, has authored over 15 books, notably *The Suffering of Light*, which chronicles three decades of his colorful captures. He has showcased his work globally, from the Whitney Museum of American art to the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. A magnum photos member since 1979, his images grace prestigious publications like *National Geographic* and the *New York Times Magazine*. Awards, like the 2007 Guggenheim fellowship, adorned his career. Presently, he's engrossed in a project spotlighting US cities.

Rebecca Norris Webb, who began as a poet, seamlessly blends her verses with imagery across her nine books. *My Dakota*, a poignant tribute to her late brother, stands out for its poetic narrative

Rebecca Norris Webb, *Storm Over Canola Field*, Near Starkweather, ND, 2022.

intertwined with photographs. Her work has appeared in most of the same institutions and publications as that of Alex. A recipient of a 2019 India grant, her upcoming release, *A Difficulty is a Light*, merges poetry with photography, debuting alongside an exhibition in Milan, Italy. Presently, Norris Webb is immersed in her ongoing series, *Badlands*, capturing the essence of North and South Dakota, while preparing her retrospective, *Glimmerings*, spanning 3 decades of her photographic journey.

(continued on page 3)

ND has 869 EVs; proponents looking to build more electric infrastructure via federal & state funds

By Michael Standaert
North Dakota News Cooperative

For Ryan Taylor, the pros of owning and operating an electric Ford Lightning F150 Lariat truck outweigh the cons, even without the promised expansion of charging stations federal programs aim to address.

Splitting time between Bismarck and his ranch near Towner, the former state senator said the electric truck has cut his fuel costs by an average of $1,400-$1,500 per 10,000 miles, reduced maintenance costs to almost zero, and operates better than any he's ever had in winter weather conditions.

On the downside, battery performance is reduced in extreme cold, something that's often raised as a concern for would-be EV drivers in the state.

"With winter driving you might get less miles in the cold, but it's the best vehicle I've ever driven on the ice or snow," Taylor said.

The other current con is limited fast-charging infrastructure that reduces travel options and can increase range anxiety. Infrastructure shortcomings will partly be addressed through funding from the federal National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) program, which aims to establish a network of Level 3 DC fast-charging stations no more than 50 miles apart along the I-94 and I-29 corridors.

Other improvements include technological advancements on batteries that could lead to greater ranges and a wider range of vehicles. Agreements to synchronize charging protocols are also starting to help.

As of early 2024, for example, Ford EV drivers can access Tesla's extensive supercharger network across the United States after adaptors are distributed. Currently in North Dakota, Tesla superchargers are in Grand Forks, Fargo, Jamestown, Bismarck and Dickinson.

Vehicle owners will have to weigh the pros and cons themselves as they go forward, but increasingly EVs and hybrids will start to make sense to more people in the state, those monitoring the transition say.

Just announced Environmental Protection Agency tailpipe emissions standards for passenger cars and light-duty trucks starting with 2027 models will also likely force a greater transition to all-electric and hybrid vehicles nationwide.

Right now, there's still a lot of skepticism, largely due to performance concerns and the lack of established infrastructure across the state.

Capital Electric Cooperative's EV, nicknamed "Elektra" Chevy Bolt, was purchased by the co-op in order to help members better understand the technology. Here "Elektra" charges outside the offices of the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives in Mandan. Photo provided by NDAREC.

A recent North Dakota Poll sponsored by the North Dakota News Cooperative found only 8% of those surveyed were likely to buy an electric vehicle as their next car or truck purchase, and only 18% said they were likely to buy a hybrid.

Currently, electric vehicle ownership in North Dakota is minimal.

As of March, there were a total of 868 fully electric vehicles registered in the state, with about half of those located along the I-29 corridor, mainly in Cass County, according to the Department of Transportation (NDDOT). Adoption rates of EVs in the region, including North Dakota, Wyoming and South Dakota, are the lowest in the nation.

Infrastructure coming

Under the federal NEVI program, North Dakota will receive around $25.9 million for the network of charging stations along the two corridors, covering 18 potential sites.

(continued on page 3)

DICKEY COUNTY LEADER

The Official Newspaper of Dickey County

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This month at the Opera House: Silent Art Auction, Jesse Veeder concert on March 27

The Ellendale Opera House is welcoming the spring season with a display of locally produced art with a special bonus: viewers have the option of owning some of it! The exhibit will be on display for viewing from March 6 to March 27, Wednesdays through Saturdays at 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm. And on the last day (March 27), one of North Dakota's great musical talents will perform live in concert.

The pieces can also be viewed online by using the QR code in the poster at right. Bids can be made online or at the Opera House. Bids start at $20.00 and the bids close at 8:00 the evening of the concert. More instructions are on the poster.

This is a great chance to support the restoration of the Opera House and to also pick up one or more valuable art pieces.

Jesse Veeder will be familiar to many locals, especially those who attended her performance here in April, 2015 (see photo below the poster). She is a multitalented farm and ranch family woman who sings and plays and composes outstanding songs as well as prose.

Jesse's fifth and latest album, released in January, is titled *Yellow Roses*. The album "features generational stories of rural living and rootsy instrumentation from some of Nashville's best session players." The album is described as being "as rugged and real as she gets. Recorded in the historical OmniSound studios on music row in Nashville, Jessie and her team pulled out all the stops to breathe life into music that celebrates and tells the sometimes unsung stories of rural, middle America." The album is out now on all streaming platforms.

Jesse also has a regular published column, titled "Meanwhile Back at the Ranch," which gives insights into the adventure of rural living, and offers inspiration both for those who have chosen rural life or who long for it. Her New Year's 2024 column, written on just before the launch of the Yellow Rose album, is a good example. It's titled "Thank You For Listening."

==========

Happy New Year from the ranch. And happy longest month of the year in North Dakota. Or is that February? I can't remember. Winter up here sometimes is like childbirth, you forget the horrors when you're in the middle of those beautiful June days.

I sent my daughters off to school for the first time after their break and now I'm alone with my thoughts for the first time in weeks. And so it seems like a good time to announce that my new album "Yellow Roses" is set to release everywhere on January 11th. I think it's a proper way to ring in a new year, with new music.

(continued on page 3)

Silent Art Auction
with proceeds going towards
THE ELLENDALE OPERA HOUSE RESTORATION FUND
SILENT ART AUCTION ON DISPLAY
March 6-27, 2024
ARTWORK BY
Kevin Kendall
Ken Schmierer
Reva Graves
Morgan Fischer
Jamie Eberle
Roddy MacInnes
Sabrina Ramey
and more!
LOBBY EXHIBIT HOURS
Wed. – Sat. 1-6 p.m.
March 6-27th
HOW IT WORKS
Individual art images will be posted within the Facebook event. Bids will be accepted online with a valid phone number. You must post your bid on the individual photo or in person. No other bids will be accepted. Opening bid is $20. Silent Art Auction closed at 8 p.m. on Wed., March 27th. Plan to attend the Jessie Veeder concert and take your artwork home that night. If you are not able to be reached within two days of close of the event, the artwork will go to the next highest bidder. Artwork pickup must be arranged within one week. There will be no deliveries.
CONCERT
Jessie Veeder
Wed., March 27th 6:30 p.m.
Free and open to the public
with free will donation!
FACEBOOK EVENT
SPONSORED BY
Ellendale Area Arts Council, O.P.E.R.A. Inc., Ellendale Area Community Foundation, and Ellendale Tourism
LOCATION
Ellendale Opera House
55 Main Street
Ellendale, ND 58436

Jesse Veeder performing at the Ellendale Opera House, April 16, 2015 (photo by Ken Smith)

Cards take second at district tournament

These five starters received their second place award after the district final game on February 27. The Cards came up short (45-72) in the district final, facing a strong Edgeley-Kulm-Montpelier team. Last Monday (after this paper went to press) they faced off against Barnes County North in the first stage of the Regionals. Left to right: Jack Bommersbach, Mason Molan, Kade Schimke, Anton Geller, and Joshua Taylor.

Area had both spring and winter last week

"If you don't like the weather here, wait awhile and it will change." That's a common saying in many if not most parts of the United States, but in reality, it's generally less true in North Dakota than elsewhere. Most winters, it seems like a very long wait before warm breezes come along and make strolling around town a pleasure rather than a minor struggle against the elements.

For the past two weeks, though, the "wait awhile and it will change" maxim did hold true. Temperatures soared above 50 degrees from February 20 to 22, then dropped to high of 37 on the 23rd before jumping up to 57 on the 24th. But on the 27th to the 29th, the thermometer plunged back down to the below-zero mark. On Wednesday the 27th, a small snowstorm came along, with ground blizzarding that forced a school closure (make up day to be on April 2). But then, with old man winter apparently having gotten that bit of weather out of his system, the thermometer shot back up again, with a high of 52 on the 29th and a high of 62 on March 1.

A reminder to readers that we have lately been running occasional weather columns by meteorologist John Wheeler on page 4. These columns note the unusually warm winter we have had. That, combined with questions about a changing climate, should make for interesting discussions.

February 22, 2024--pleasant day for a stroll

February 27, 2024--school closed, good day to stay home

The Russians in North and South Dakota, as viewed by a rural schoolteacher in 1898 (part 1)

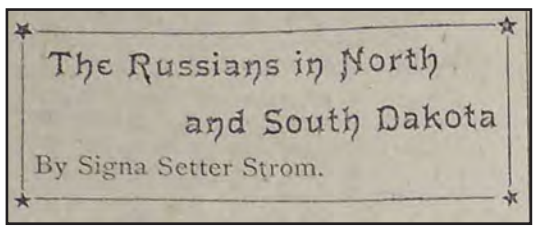
Editor's Note: *Three years ago the Leader ran a three-part historical series on German-Russian settlers in Dickey County. We have also occasionally printed the "In Touch With Prairie Living" column written by Michael Miller of the Germans from Russia Heritage Collection at NDSU. Last year we ran a two-part historical series on German Lutherans in our area.*

Since a large percentage of our readers have roots in the German and German-Russian immigration, we are happy to share a recent discovery from a 126-year old edition of the Leader: an article attempting to explain the life and folkways of new German-Russian immigrants to readers unfamiliar with them.

This article, a study of early German-Russian settlers in McIntosh County, was one of the first of its kind to run in a North Dakota newspaper. It was of special interest to readers of the Leader, because since the early 1880s, ethnic Germans who hailed from Russian lands had been arriving at Ellendale by train. Most of them settled west of Ellendale in the hills and often beyond Dickey County, but they came to town regularly to conduct trade. A June 18, 1886 editorial in the Leader urged locals to treat these immigrants well, as "they are a thrifty people" and an important part of the local economy. Yes, some of their customs seemed strange by typical American standards, but they were certainly hard-working, respectable folk.

Twelve years later, Signa Setter Strom, a schoolteacher in rural McIntosh County, submitted this article to the Leader, and it was published on the front page. It is a lengthy piece, full of observations that make it valuable from a historical and sociological perspective. Readers should be cautioned however, that the author took her observations from a relatively small portion of a vast immigrant population. Not everything she describes should be attributed to the German-Russian people as a whole. And, of course, most of the peculiar folkways described now exist only in memory.

This week we present part one.

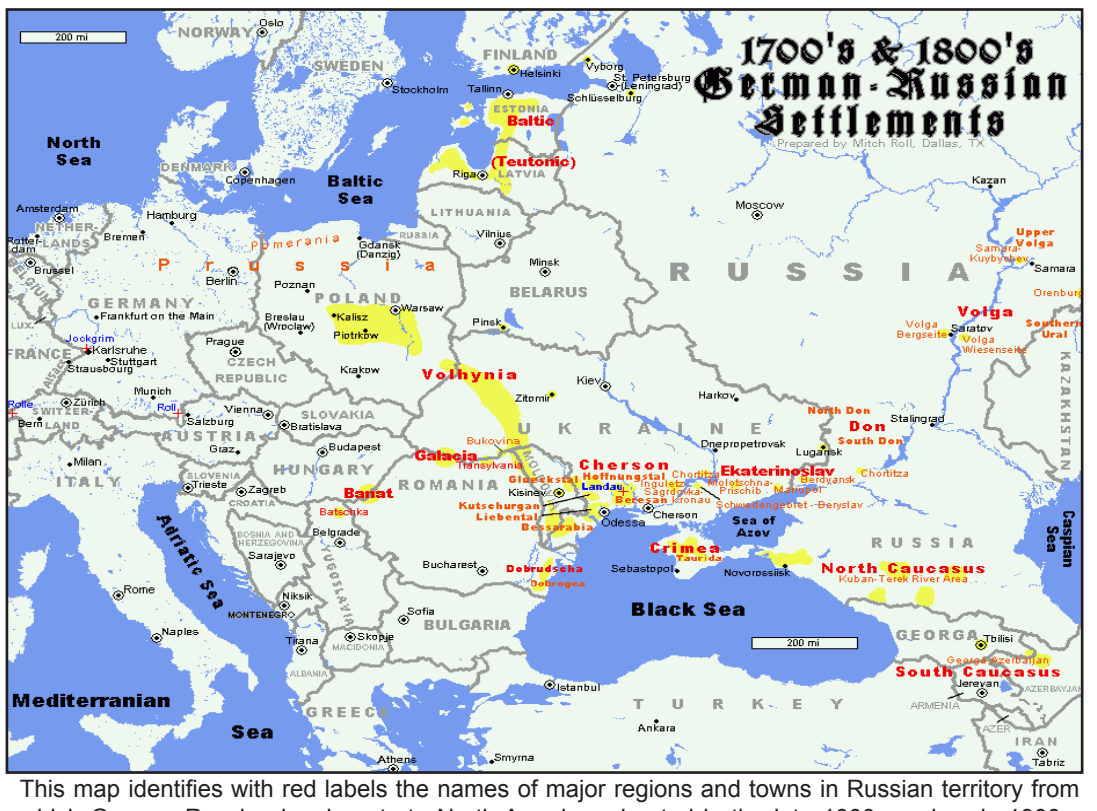


Of all people that go to make up the cosmopolitan population of the northwest, there is probably none other so distinctive a character as the Russian, so-called. At least 3/4 of the settlers in Logan and McIntosh counties in North Dakota and McPherson County in South Dakota are these Russians, a quaint and interesting people who immigrated here some 10 or 12 years ago. There is a still older settlement of these people in Hutchinson County South Dakota, where they settled nearly 20 years ago, but they are so nearly amalgamated with the other settlers, by this time, that they have ceased to be distinctive in that locality.

It is a mistake to suppose them to be genuinely Russian, however. They are descendants of German colonists who settled in southern Russia around Odessa and the Black Sea a little over a generation ago. Those colonists jealously preserved their native language, religion and customs, refusing to affiliate with their Russian neighbors. They had come to the czar's domains hoping to better their condition, but were met with disappointments and hardships on every hand. The five years conscription service proved a heavy burden—in their case heightened by no feeling of patriotism. Their religion—the majority of them being Protestants—was obnoxious in the eyes of the government, which grew more and more insistent in its demand that they renounce their creed and adopt that of the Orthodox Church.

Add to this the fact that land was scarce and rents high, and it is small wonder, that, when reports came of fertile lands in the Dakotas to be had freely for the asking, so many of them decided to seek their fortune in a country where they would be free from the oppression and restrictions which were making life a burden to them.

(continued on page 3)



This map identifies with red labels the names of major regions and towns in Russian territory from which German-Russian immigrants to North America migrated in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Observers of current events will note that a majority of these towns of origin are in Ukraine, which since February 2022 has been engaged in a struggle for national survival following a military invasion by Russia.

Recycling Pick Up | Recycling Dumpster Pick up
Garbage Pick Up | Garbage Dumpster Pick Up

March

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
A						1	2
B	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
A	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
B	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
A	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
B	31						

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Choice Bank Supports Food Pantry, EPS Programs

Choice Bank donated $2500 to the Ellendale Food Pantry for their Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets. Left to right: Diane Henningsen, Michele Thorpe, Amy Freier, Dee Haugen, Lu Grueneich and Jeff Peterson.

Choice bank also funded the backpack, second meal, and Cardinal Lunch programs with this generous $2,500 donation. Left to right, Diane Henningsen, Jeff Petersen, Valerie Jordan and Lana Norton.

O.P.E.R.A. Fund Drive Raises $50,000 for Future Restoration Work at Ellendale Opera House

O.P.E.R.A. January 25

Ellendale Opera House supporters donated more than $50,000 to the 2023 "Future Now Fund Drive" to continue restoration work on the historic Main Street landmark. The fund drive ended Dec. 31 with $25,037 in individual contributions, matched dollar-for-dollar by anonymous supporters, for a total of $50,074 for O.P.E.R.A., Inc. - the non-profit group that owns and operates the opera house.

The opera house early last year also received a major contribution from anonymous supporters to help pay a portion of the unplanned repairs of the building's west wall and foundation.

Excavation last July uncovered an old stairwell to the basement with seven windows and a door below ground level that had not been properly sealed or supported when the stairwell was filled in 40 years ago. That led to deterioration of the foundation and the shifting of the west wall. Temporary shoring of the building had to be installed before rebuilding of the foundation or west wall could begin this fall.

Eventually, the entire west wall and foundation were restored in addition to cleaning and restoration work on the brick front of the building. Total cost of the wall and foundation repair and restoration work was more than $550,000. A $250,000 allocation received this spring from the N.D. State Historical Society, along with the organization's renovation reserve account, paid for the restoration projects.

If you would like to help with the ongoing restoration of the opera house, mail your donation to O.P.E.R.A., Inc. at P.O. Box 334, Ellendale, ND 58436, or donate online at:

www.ellendaleoperahouse.com. O.P.E.R.A. is a charitable non-profit organization so all donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. In addition to cash, O.P.E.R.A. can accept donation of appreciated securities and grain from farm operators.

Donors will have their names listed on a display in the Opera House Lobby & Gallery. Contributions can be made to honor other individuals or family members and have their names listed on the display. Work on the building - listed on the National Register of Historic Places - has been ongoing for more than 25 years. For additional information on making a donation, call 701-535-0347 or email: jmmeid@hotmail.com.

Recycling Pick Up | Recycling Dumpster Pick up
Garbage Pick Up | Garbage Dumpster Pick Up

February

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
A					1	2	3
B	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
A	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
B	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
A	25	26	27	28	29		

Ellendale's Carquest is Now a Parts City Franchisee

by Ken Smith

People who've stopped in to the Farmers Union Oil building in the last few weeks have seen a dramatically transformed store. A long new parts counter, backed by tall, gleaming racks of neatly arranged parts boxes adorns the west side of the store. A series of lower racks is lined up on the other side of the store, filled with commonly replaced items, tools, accessories, lubricants, and more. The arrangement is efficient and inviting.

If the new layout is reminiscent of an O'Reilly's parts store, that's no accident. Though Parts City—the brand under which the Ellendale store is now operating—is independent from other chains, it is serviced by O'Reilly, with the same selection of parts in stock and the same availability to get almost any part overnight.

According to an official Parts City press release, affiliates like the one in Ellendale offer customers "immediate access to the same pricing, product selection, and industry-leading business strategies that have made O'Reilly Auto Parts one of the fastest growing, most successful automotive parts retailers in the United States."

Chad Gross, parts manager at the new store, says he likes the store's new organization a lot. It's a major update. The changeover, which took five days, started January 8. At this writing, the new sign for the front of the building hadn't been delivered, but that's coming soon, Chad says.

Teens Share Benefits of Working at Benedictine Ellendale

by Kathrin Youngberg

The demand for workers in the health care field is higher than ever and expected to keep growing. According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, the US economy is projected to add nearly 4.7 million jobs total from 2022 to 2032. Of these, the health care and social assistance sector is projected to grow the most quickly, creating about 45% of projected job gains from 2022 to 2032.

A main factor contributing to the demand for health care workers is an aging population. According to the 2020 US Census, the number of people age 65 and older was up 38.6% from 2010, its fastest growth rate ever.

The high demand for health care workers has led several teens in Ellendale and surrounding communities to get a jump start on their career aspirations by a becoming CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) while in high school. One student was able to receive high school credit for taking a health careers class while also working as a CNA. Some got a head start on patient care hours for college. Others may not end up in health care but are doing it for job experience to help build their resume, while enjoying flexible schedules and high pay starting at $18.50 an hour and up. All learned meaningful life skills that will help in any career or job they pursue. Here they share their insights from working at Benedictine Living Community-Ellendale.

McKenna Glynn, age 18, daughter of Jeff and Alicia Glynn

I began working at Benedictine Ellendale as a universal worker/nursing assistant at Evergreen Place in October 2021. I really enjoyed working with the residents at Evergreen, which made me realize I wanted to get my CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) license and help the residents even more. I got my CNA license and then started working as a CNA at Benedictine Ellendale in November 2022. The CNA Class was very beneficial as it allowed me to pass the class on the first try. Benedictine Ellendale paid for the cost of the training class and I received payment for attending! The training greatly helped me pass the exam on the first try, especially the skills portion. I had previously taken medical terminology in high school which helped me during the written test, but going to the skills lab and performing all the skills before the exam was extremely helpful. Doing the hands-on skills really put into perspective what the job entails, and helped me get a better understanding how to perform the skills.

(continued on page 3)

left to right: Kali Norton, Mya Glynn, Jack Bommersbach, McKenna Glynn, Rachel Scheffert (Oakes), and Hannay Seefeld.

Extreme Cold Exposes Gaps Facing Homeless Population

By Michael Standaert, North Dakota News Cooperative

Missing a bus would be an inconvenience for most people. For Raymond Mallard, a 53-year-old homeless man, it was fatal. He appears to have missed a bus back to Bismarck from Mandan and died from exposure on the coldest night of the year.

Sometime on the evening of Jan. 13 on into the morning, as temperatures dropped to -21 with a windchill in the -60s, Mallard succumbed outside Wildwood Mobile Home Park.

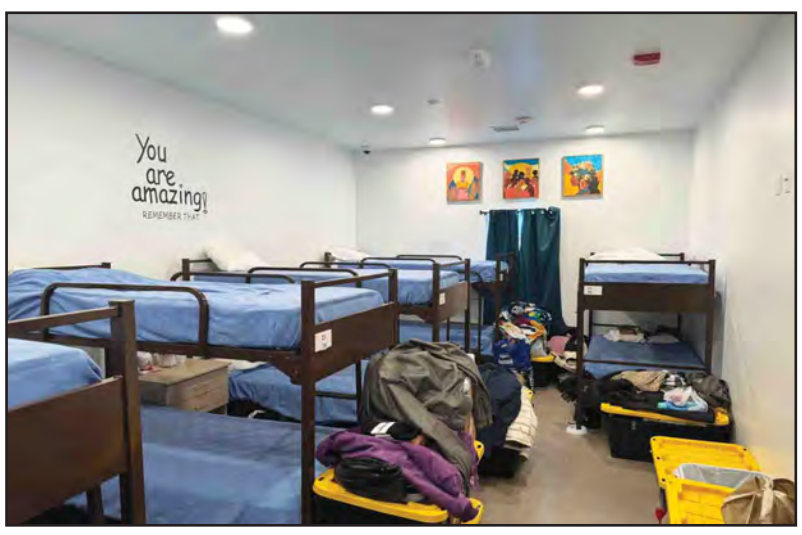
"He was visiting one of his friends and he was coming back that night. He was walking here," said his relative, Lisa Ireland, during an interview at the homeless shelter Ministry on the Margins in Bismarck. "He just missed the bus."

Ireland herself has been homeless for nearly a year. She and others at the shelter are among some 2,500 homeless people in the state, according to the most recent data from the North Dakota Homeless Management Information system.

Discussions with homeless people and those who provide food, shelter and care for them, paint a picture of haphazard municipal management, a lack of overall funding, and little direction from the state.

Those gaps literally leave many out in extreme conditions like those that hit the state in early and mid-January.

(continued on page 3)



United Way's high-barrier shelter at the Center for Opportunity can shelter up to 140 men, women and families and opened its doors during the daytime to all homeless during the most recent extreme cold wave. Residents are not allowed to stay in the dorms during daytime except under special circumstances, leaving little space in the main lobby when extreme cold hits. Photo, Michael Standaert

Energy Assistance & Services Available to ND Residents

BISMARCK — North Dakotans who may be struggling to pay their heating bills can apply for financial assistance and support services. Applications are being accepted through May 1 for funds available through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. Renters and homeowners can apply, according to a press release from the state's Department of Health and Human Services.

"As we continue through the winter season, HHS wants North Dakotans to know that assistance and services are available to keep households safe and warm," HHS Economic Assistance Director Michele Gee said in the release. To date, more than 12,000 qualifying North Dakota households received an average of $270 each month to pay for heat. Assistance is based on factors like household income, heat source and other variables. North Dakotans also have access to weatherization services like insulation or weather stripping, as well as furnace cleaning, repair or replacement, and chimney inspection and cleaning, the release said. Emergency assistance is also available, but residents are encouraged to apply for assistance from the program before a situation becomes dire. To learn more about assistance and eligibility requirements, visit hhs. nd.gov/liheap.

Anyone who needs help applying should contact Community Options tollfree at 800-823-2417 or 711 (TTY). Community Options partners with HHS to provide free application assistance.

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South Park Ice Rink Gets Zamboni Treatment

Get your skates ready! Last Tuesday the famous Oakes Zamboni ice machine worked its magic on the outdoor rink at South Park. The warming house next to the rink was open for skaters. As reported by Daryl Monette, who took this photo, the Ellendale Park Board "is working on a number of improvements for the rink and we hope more people come out to enjoy it!"

All local skaters can appreciate good ice, even if it is prepared by a machine bearing an Oakes Tornado insignia.

Park Board members are Kerry Waldo (President), Jolene Maunu (Vice President), Resa Russell (Secretary/Treasurer), Melissa Johnson, Lucas Van Zee, and Daryl Monette. Information regarding the Ellendale Parks and all of what the park system provides, is available at www.ellendaleparks.org

Music at Evergreen

" Music seems to bring people together, everyone loves a good tune." That was one response last Tuesday, as residents and staff at Evergreen and at Benedictine Living Center got a special musical treat. They were entertained with accordion and piano by a local musician who sees with his heart.

Ronnie Veer, who lives in the 32-plex apartment building on the north side of town, has been blind for about five years. But that doesn't stop his musical talent: he regularly plays for residents at his building, and they appreciate it.

Peggy Gilbert, who helps with the Art For Life program through the Ellendale Area Arts Council, heard Ronnie playing some time ago and was impressed. She scheduled Ronnie for Evergreen and Benedictine, and the results were great. Ronnie plays by ear and memory, and he has a big repertoire of songs. Not only that, says Peggy, he does card tricks. "I don't know how he does it," she said, "but he gets it right every time."

Art for life is a program sponsored by an endowment belonging to the North Dakota Council for the Arts. For over ten years, volunteers from the Ellendale Area Arts Council have worked hard to bring arts-related programming--including hands on activities--to residents of local care homes. If you are interested in helping, contact Peggy Gilbert or Robin Smith.

Report on the District 28 Republican Party Endorsing Convention

Dist. 28 Republican executive committee: Back row, l-r: Rep. Jim Grueneich, Rep. Mike Brandenburg, Senator Bob Erbele, Bart Schott; Front row, l-r: Eric Lahlum, Katie Vculek, Connie Rivinius.

(Submitted)

The District 28 Republican Party endorsing convention was held on January 3 at the Hakuna Matata venue in Edgeley. There were seventy-three registered voters in attendance for the event. The meeting was called to order and conducted by the District Chairman, Bart Schott. Mr. Schott introduced the executive committee, which consists of himself, Senator Erbele, Representatives Brandenburg and Grueneich, Scott German, Eric Lahlum, Vice Chairman, Connie Rivinius, Treasurer, and Katie Vculek, Secretary. The voters endorsed Robert Erbele for the Senate. Mark Wagner and Bridger Rivinius gave nominating speeches for Mr. Erbele. The voters endorsed Mike Brandenburg and Jim Grueneich. Robert Orn and Tim Erbele gave nominating speeches for Mr. Brandenburg and Art Hagebock and Jerry Waswick gave nominating speeches for Mr. Grueneich.

National Committeeman Shane Goettle was the parliamentarian for endorsing process for the evening. He also asked the delegates to the state convention for their support in continuing as a committeeman. National Committeewoman Lori Hinz also asked the state delegates for support to continue to serve at the national level. Each endorsed candidate answered questions from the audience. The questions ranged from securing the southern border to how large the state government has become, and how term limits will negatively affect the legislature in the future.

Recycling Pick Up | Recycling Dumpster Pick up
Garbage Pick Up | Garbage Dumpster Pick Up

January 2024

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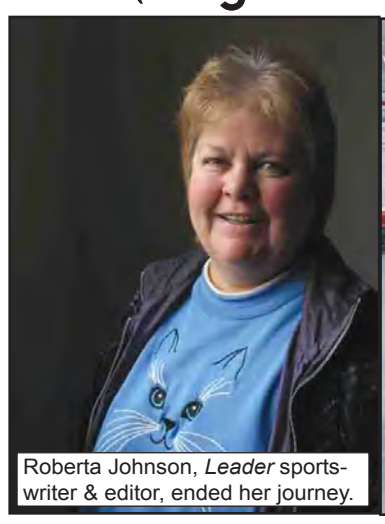
A		1	2	3	4	5	6
B	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
A	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
B	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
A	28	29	30	31			

2023 In Review (August-December)

August, 2023: Memorial service held at High School for Roberta Johnson (1949-2023), longtime editor and sportswriter for the *Dickey County Leader*; former Supt. Jeff Fastnacht is speaker • New York Kammermusiker returns to Ellendale for free concert • legislature's $250,000 gift to the Opera House is finalized • plans for Jamestown to Ellendale high voltage line (Jet-X) are discussed at MDU-sponsored open house • up to four inches of rain reported around Ellendale in August 5 soaker • Mary and Walker Bruns' wedding is saved from the rain by the helping hands of scores of friends, who relocate it indoors due to heavy rains • TBC professors David Bennett and Aaron Thurber honored for lengthy service at national convention



Roberta Johnson, *Leader* sportswriter & editor, ended her journey.

New York Kammermusiker musicians visited the Coleman Museum.

September, 2023: Little Miss and Mr. Ellendale are Mya Rall and Witten Glynn • Trinity Bible College celebrates its 75th anniversary as a school (founded in 1948 in Devil's Lake) • Major work on the Opera House continues as faded art panels over front windows are removed, brick is reconditioned, and west wall is fortified and foundation rebuilt beneath it • CBS' Restaurant and its "Nest" coffee shop closes after a little over a year in operation • Trinity Bible College holds ground breaking ceremony for new Music and Fine Arts building; construction to begin in spring 2024 • Angela Kennecke, former Sioux Falls TV anchor and now head of a major charity focusing on drug awareness, prevention and recovery, gave a powerful presentation on the dangers of fentanyl, told of her own daughter's death from the drug

Mya Rall and Witten Glynn became Little Miss & Mr. Ellendale.

October, 2023: despite rainy day, TBC students fan out across the town for "Serve Our City" day, doing lots of practical tasks for neighbors • Applied Digital holds town hall, explaining their plans for a massive expansion as they build phase II of a planned five-phase data processing plant • raw milk on sale-and selling--in North Dakota--after long lobbying efforts to make it legal • "CO2 Pipeline Project Still Uncertain Amid Resistance, Replanning" -- some Dickey County landowners maintain stance against the pipeline • *Leader* publishes humorous literary piece from 1899: "Simmons, the Editor's Pig" • Pasta Month celebrated by *Leader*: 10 readers are winners of pasta prize packages • WDAY Weather forecaster: "El Niño Could Lead to Milder Winter, But Predictions are Hard to Make" • EEK Thunder football team finishes season with 5-4 record • Chinese cuisine arrives in Ellendale • Good weather helps make annual Trunk or Treat on Main Street a success

Lots of work was done on Opera House restoration.

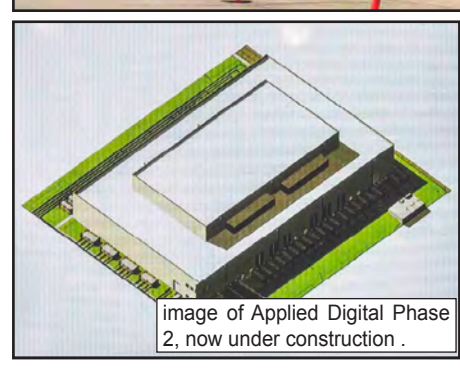


image of Applied Digital Phase 2, now under construction .

Chinese take out opened in October--a welcome sight.

Angela Kennecke brought youth a powerful message on the deadly dangers of fentanyl - www.emilyshope.charity.

Ellendale said goodbye to CBS' and the Nest Coffee Shop in September.

Up for Discussion: To Keep or Remove Wild Horses at Roosevelt National Park?

Medora businesses, statewide tourism could suffer without wild horses. Though acute for some, overall impacts hard to quantify.

By Michael Standaert, North Dakota News Cooperative

These equine influencers go by names like Grizz, Arrowhead, Flax, and Little Bear. They're neither pets, nor livestock, and they roam wild in North Dakota's only national park.

That may change pending an anticipated 2024 management decision by Theodore Roosevelt National Park staff to remove the nearly 200 horses, or cull to a greatly reduced number.

The decision is being closely watched by many who've followed and named the horses on social media posts over the years and by owners of businesses in and around Medora, the gateway town synonymous with the park.

"Everyone has their favorites," said Christine Kman, owner of a shop called Chasing Horses in Medora. She sells horse- and badlands-themed merchandise, and she and her husband Gary host tours so visitors can see horses, bison and other wildlife in the park.

Kman, like other merchants in Medora, is concerned about the economic impact of the National Park Service's plans.

While the business would survive the hit if horses were removed or their numbers reduced, they're "definitely a draw," she said. On top of the economic impact is one without a price tag. It saddens her and others that horses they've come to know and love may soon disappear.

Horses from the Arrowhead and Flax bands mingle below the crest of a butte, with foal Grizz scampering up toward his mother Little Bear [black, in back] in June 2023. Photo provided by Christine Kman.

"There were a lot of people who came last year because they were afraid maybe there wouldn't be any horses after this year," said Kman, who also co-founded Chasing Horses Wild Horse Advocates, a nonprofit fighting to keep the park's horses.

Mary Griffin, owner of Medora's Custer's Cottage, has a better idea of the impact on her business. She estimates she could lose at least one-fifth of her income if the horses are removed from the park.

"I have customers that come in the spring and the fall, solely because of the horses," Griffin said. "That's the only reason they are here. I'm a small lodging business, so I personally visit with people and know why they're here."

(continued on page 4)

DICKEY COUNTY LEADER

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Veterans Club & Events Center Holds Open House

Gary Dathe had reason to smile last Friday as he welcomed the community to an open house for the new Ellendale Veteran's Club and Robert Bernhagen Events Center. Lots of food and beverages were served although the kitchen is not quite complete. Legion regulars were there along with lots of guests from 3:00 until late evening closing. The gaming room, which features a large set of state-of-the-art game consoles, was perhaps the busiest spot. New video screens are attached prominently to the walls. A golf simulator is planned for another space.

As indicated by the stars and plates on the donor flag, lots of gifts of all sizes have been offered to make this dream a reality. A little more is needed to put the facility completely over the top. If you want to be remembered and be part of this history, your name can be posted there as well.

As Applied Digital Expands, Ellendale Hopes to Keep Pace

Applied Digital's new 342,000 square foot data center rises next to its data mining operation in the fields near Ellendale. Thousands of computers at the facility will churn through complicated algorithms used to power AI, machine learning and other advanced computing systems. Photo by Ken Smith, *Dickey County Leader.*

Editor's Note: a few weeks ago Michael Standaert, a Bismarck based journalist working with the North Dakota News Cooperative, came to Ellendale to investigate firsthand the Applied Digital facility and talk to locals about how it is affecting the community and may affect it in the future. Michael stopped by the *Leader* office to talk about the data center and various other topics.

The *Leader* has run several articles on the data center, but none of them have focused as much on local impacts as this one. We trust our readers will find it informative.

Limited housing and services mirror development situation for many smaller towns

By Michael Standaert
North Dakota News Cooperative

Applied Digital is in the process of expanding its footprint in the fields near Ellendale. The first phase included a data mining operation opened last September that smoothly hums just to the west of town.

The second phase, which can be seen rising through the fields if you're close enough, and heard in town as the piles are driven into the foundation, is expected to be complete by the latter end of 2024.

The new 342,000 square foot facility will house a three-story state of the art data center. Hundreds of computers will churn through complicated algorithms used to power AI, machine learning and other advanced computing systems using 100 megawatts of power.

It will be Applied's third data center in the state and has the potential to expand to 400 megawatts of computing system if fully developed. The project costs an estimated $600-$700 million, according to the company, and customers are expected to place up to $1.5 billion worth of equipment in the building.

It's a big deal for the company and a big deal for Ellendale. Local complications with a lack of housing and services could, however, slow progress.

The expansion, once completed, has the potential to bring upwards of 80 more employees and their families to the area, raising the company's local workforce up to around 110. These will include workers to maintain the facility, possibly hired from the local area, as well as some of the most qualified engineers working on AI systems migrating in from across the U.S.

Challenges to growth

Employees will, of course, need places to live, either rental housing, condos or single-family homes. Currently most housing, other than a few higher priced homes, is in short supply.

"Housing is a challenge for us," said Michael Maniscalco, the company's chief technical officer. "We're probably going to have to end up building some houses."

Since Ellendale, 65 miles south of Jamestown, only has about 1,000 people, Applied's employees could end up comprising a large percentage of that.

For the major construction push this coming spring and summer, the company has been talking about possibly setting up "crew camps" in the area to get the building finished since so little housing is available, according to Nick Phillips, executive VP of operations and public affairs.

(continued on page 3)

A Firm Foundation: Reconstruction Of West Wall And Foundation Completed

Details of the work: Three years ago this fall, the north wall of the west side of the Opera House was rebuilt. The stucco exterior, which in places had crumbled to expose aged brick, was replaced with a solid wall of concrete block.

This fall, a somewhat different restoration was performed on the west wall. As Justin Meidinger, Executive Director of O.P.E.R.A., explained, the wall had two problems. First, the exterior brick had begun to separate from the strong interior wall. Second, the footings beneath the wall were deteriorating and beginning to sag in places. The result was that exterior cracks began to appear, and the wall was too unstable for further necessary construction to proceed.

To remedy the situation, contractors began in September the slow work of anchoring the exterior and interior walls to each other, using hundreds of metal fasteners to create what is essentially a single structure. As Justin explained, new brick construction nowadays employs this fastening method, but it was often not used in early 20th century buildings.

At the same time, the workers did extensive tuck pointing of the wall, replacing weak mortar with strong, new mortar. Once this was done, and the two layers of wall were tightly bound together, the crew replaced the footings at ground level. The photos at the right side of this page show the renewal both on the exterior and the interior. One of the next steps will be to replace the west sidewalk.

This work has all been time consuming and expensive, but financial support has been strong. The result is a west wall that will be secure well into the future. Supporters of the project can now look forward to seeing more restoration on the building's front and interior.

Editor's Note: O.P.E.R.A. president Greg Gackle and the board is enthusiastic over recent progress on the historic Ellendale Opera House. Greg provided the following report on December 15.

Reconstruction of the deteriorating west wall and foundation of the Ellendale Opera House was completed Dec. 1. It was the most significant renovation work done to date on the historic Main Street building.

What began as a small rebuild of the northwest corner of the building turned into a renovation of the entire west wall and foundation.

To safely complete the restoration work, scaffolding first had to be erected in the basement and two floors of the west portion of the building.

Without the wall and foundation repairs, further restoration of the opera house could not go forward.

Now that the critical work is complete, O.P.E.R.A. – the non-profit group that owns and operates the opera house – is planning to renovate the first floor Annex, the storefront next to the restored Lobby & Gallery.

Also ongoing is a major electrical upgrade for the building. Work on the electrical system began last year and the new building transformer was recently installed and energized.

The significant restoration just completed would not have been possible without a $250,000 grant from the ND Historical Society. O.P.E.R.A.'s building restoration account – funded by donations from hundreds of opera house supporters – provided the remaining money needed for the work.

As part of this year's annual fund drive, anonymous O.P.E.R.A. supporters are matching – dollar-for-dollar – all donations up to $25,000. So far, more than $17,500 has been contributed.

The deadline is December 31 to make a donation to qualify for the dollar-for-dollar match.

Donations can be made by mail: O.P.E.R.A., Inc., P.O. Box 334, Ellendale, ND 58436, or online at: ellendaleoperahouse.com

Originally, an outside stairway on the west side led to the basement. Some time later, the stairway windows were replaced with boards and the stairway was backfilled with dirt. This cost-cutting measure ensured the eventual deterioration of the footing. The footing is now very solid.

Recycling Pick Up | Recycling Dumpster Pick up
Garbage Pick Up | Garbage Dumpster Pick Up

December

B	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

January

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
A		1	2	3	4	5	6
B	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
A	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
B	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
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Eighteen Students Complete CounterACT

This year's fifth graders proudly hold the certificates they earned by completing the course. For nearly 20 years, EPS youngsters have been educated in CounterACT's basic principles for good decision making: 1) check it out--ask open ended questions; 2) talk about consequences; 3) suggest a positive alternative; and 4) follow through with your choice even if your friends don't want to.

Once again this semester, Ellendale Police Chief Brad Knutson enjoyed a week in the classroom as he led a new group of students to completion of their CounterACT course. The CounterACT program brings local law enforcement officials and kids together, encouraging young citizens to exercise good judgment in their personal and social lives. It gives them valuable insights on how to steer clear of drugs, alcohol, violence, and other dangerous or illegal behavior.

CounterACT's goal is to get youngsters to think about consequences of certain activities. It also builds a connection with the local law enforcement officials, helping them understand policeman as their protectors and friends, not just authority figures in uniforms. In the process, lessons are learned that help the youngsters better understand their community and grow to be a productive part of it.

The Ellendale Public School has been operating the CounterAct program for 18 years. At the completion of the first class in March 2004, a parent's night was held, and the program was explained further to parents. CounterACT was originally developed with help from the Hazeldon Foundation, a charity associated with the Betty Ford Foundation. From the beginning, the program has been focused on helping youngsters find solutions to problems without resorting to harmful or illegal behaviors.

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Chinese Cuisine Arrives in Ellendale

Sohn's Chinese Cuisine, located on Highway 281 just north of Casey's, opened for business this week. It operates out of the well equipped food trailer that opened at that site in 2020 as North Country Barbecue. Sohn's provides another much-desired eating option, and one that most would not expect in a rural town the size of Ellendale. Watch the *Leader* for details on how this stroke of good fortune for the town and for the food entrepreneur came about.

Trunk or Treat on Main Street on October 31, 5:30-6:30pm

The Ellendale Church of the Nazarene is once again sponsoring a community-wide Trunk or Treat, to be held early evening on Halloween. This provides a convenient place for kids to participate in Halloween festivities, show off their costumes, and get some candy and prizes. Those who would like to decorate their cars and hand out candy are welcome to come down and set up. There will be prizes for the best themed trunk. Free hot dogs and chips will be available, and plenty of free sugar and chocolate from the trunk displays.

Update on Opera House West Foundation/Wall Repair and "Future Now" Fund Drive

Repairs to the west wall have been underway since September. The repairs involve the anchoring of the outer brick wall to the solid interior masonry, and then putting a solid footing underneath the bricks. The work is time consuming but will result in a wall that is as solid as it was when it was constructed over 110 years ago.

October 17, 2023--The scope and cost of repairs to the Ellendale Opera House west wall and foundation have grown significantly since initial work began this summer on the building's west foundation.

As work got under way in July, the excavation uncovered an old stairwell to the basement with seven windows and a door below ground level. The windows and door had not been properly sealed or supported when the stairwell was filled in, leading to deterioration of the foundation and the shifting of the west wall.

A structural engineering firm recommended temporary shoring of the building before any rebuilding of the foundation or west wall repairs could begin.

The interior shoring was installed in September and restoration work on the foundation, west wall and brick exterior of the west wall is expected to be completed before the end of the year.

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Recycling Pick Up | Recycling Dumpster Pick up
Garbage Pick Up | Garbage Dumpster Pick Up

October

A	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
B	29	30	31				

November

B				1	2	3	4
A	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
B	12	13	14	15	16	17	18

Applied Digital Officials Discuss Plans for Four-Phase Expansion of Data Center: $1.8 Billion Investment Envisioned

by Ken Smith

Several dozen interested locals showed up at a "Town Hall Meeting" hosted last Tuesday morning at the Opera House to learn about Applied Digital's plans to expand its Ellendale facility. Company officials including CEO Wes Cummins, V. P. of Hosting Operations Nick Philips, and Chad Neumann, who manages the Ellendale site spoke briefly to the attendees. Afterward, these and several other officials stayed to visit and answer questions.

When these officials were last assembled in public, a ribbon was cut to dedicate the current facility, which is designated "ELN01." ELN01 (see aerial view photo at right) consists of ten "turkey barn" style buildings and an office and maintenance building. It currently has 28 full time employees, and contracts out 180 megawatts of computing power, largely to companies with Bitcoin operations.

Cummins then explained that the company has purchased 80 additional acres north of the current 40-acre plot, and as of October 9, dirt work has begun on the second phase of a planned four-phase operation. "We're trying to get the foundations poured before things stop," he said. "This is our third build in North Dakota in the winter. We would really like to build something in the summer."

Whereas the current buildings are made of steel and fully open, and 26 feet high, the new building will be three stories high (about 70 feet). It will be entirely enclosed in concrete, so there will be no noise from the cooling systems.

Pre-formed concrete slabs will soon begin to be shipped in, and the wall pieces should be all in by the end of November. By January most of the structure should be standing. In April or May the first capacity is expected to go online. Full completion should take place by the end of 2024. As the work progresses, there will be anywhere from 50 to 200 workers of various trades working at the site.

So what is the purpose of the new building?

"Our company has been pretty far out ahead of a trend toward generative Artificial Intelligence," said Cummins. Last year, he explained, Applied Digital built a small version of an AI-specific data center in Jamestown, designed for high power computing workloads.

Chat GPT is the most popular application that runs on generative AI, but Cummins said his company has already signed contracts to provide computing for Character AI, Mid Journey and others. All of these applications require very high power density computing.

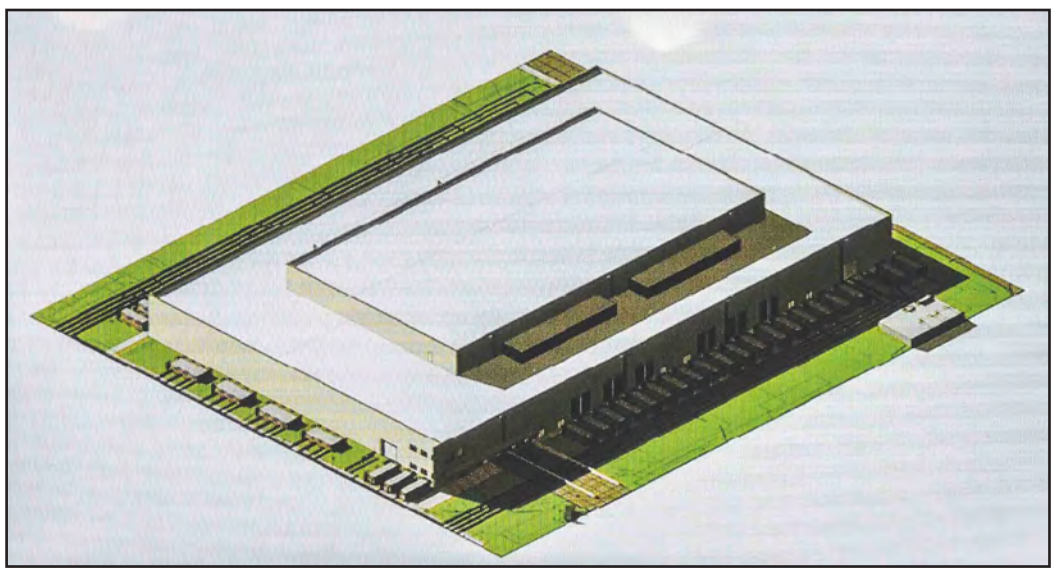
Futher explaining the evolution of data centers, Cummins said that in the last twenty years they have been built largely around high speed communication, oriented toward video and social media. A very different type of data center is required for the generative AI, and so a different data center design is needed. The phase 2 Applied Digital center, "will be, in my opinion," he said, "the first type of this data center in the world. We call it the 'artificial intelligence brain data center.' So that's what we're doing, and we think it's really exciting that we can bring this kind of high capacity compute load to North Dakota.

"We'll be investing about 1.8 billion dollars into the site," Cummins said, and the results will be impressive. "Depending on how it's configured," he added, "it could be one of the fastest supercomputers in the world. Which is quite a big deal for Ellendale."

Cummins and Phillips both noted that currently housing is not always easy to find in Ellendale, and that is one area the company is looking at, along with city officials. In the wake of the CBS' closing, restaurant service has been short, but with the opening of the new Chinese food vendor and the re-opening of a restaurant at the old D&D's site, things are looking up.

CEO Wes Cummins (at left), V. P. of Hosting Operations Nick Philips, and Ellendale site manager Chad Neumann, all spoke at the meeting, expressing enthusiasm about what is to be built here.

Currently there are 10 "turkey barn" style buildings and an office/utility building at the Ellendale site. This current picture depicts Phase I of a four-phase project that is already moving forward.



The new Phase II building will be 70 feet high, and will be put up north of the current site. Noise will not be an issue, as it is made of prefabricated concrete panels. Those panels will begin to arrive within weeks and should be standing by January. (images courtesy of Applied Digital)

Site manager Chad Neumann expressed enthusiasm about Ellendale. He said that ever since he moved here six months ago, "the support from the community and welcome has been phenomenal. Before he came to Ellendale, he wondered, "how am I going to find 30 people? Now we have a fantastic group of 28 people, and what we have accomplished is phenomenal."

As far as benefits his company is bringing to the area, Cummins mentioned at the outset that MDU, the utility company that provides power to the data center, will be giving its customers a small credit this year "as a direct result of our project." As he explained, the Applied Digital facility brings power up and down based on need, acting as a balancer to the grid. Applied Digital is buying excess electricity that would otherwise have no purchaser, while reducing its demand in accordance with the rise in demand from other customers.

Lana Schlecht of the Ellendale Area Arts Council thanked Applied Digital for donating $5,000 to help sponsor the Medora Christmas musical, which is coming to Ellendale in December.

"We want to be good neighbors," Cummins stressed, which is one of the reasons they were holding the town hall meeting. All three Applied Digital speakers expressed great satisfaction with how the Ellendale community has responded to the company so far.

Those sympathies were echoed by several attendees from the community. Dickey County emergency manager Charlie Russel, for example, commented that the workers and contractors associated with Applied Digital over the past year "were nice, and they were polite. Excellent folks. I never heard about any bar fights."

The *Leader* will do its best to provide occasional updates as work on the new facility moves forward.

Tragedy Struck Last Week

A severe tragedy struck early last Wednesday as 18 year-old Boston Hagan of Fullerton died in a collision at the intersection of Dickey County Highway 3 and 89th Ave SE, four miles southeast of Monango. The weather was cloudy with light rain but road conditions were good.

Hagen was driving a 2013 Hyundai Tucson, heading south, and failed to heed the stop sign at the intersection. By the worst stroke of fortune, a Freightliner semi truck was eastbound on Highway 3 at that moment, and a T-bone type collision occurred. The semi-truck and the Hyundai both entered the south ditch of Dickey County Highway 3. Hagen died from crash injuries. The driver of the semi, James Dymond of Manitou, Manitoba, was not injured.

Responding to the crash were the North Dakota Highway Patrol, the Dickey County Sheriff, Oakes Fire, and Ellendale Fire and Ambulance. The Highway patrol report indicates that Hagen's air bag was deployed, but that he was not wearing a seat belt.

Greg Fuher, a close friend and football teammate of Boston's at Ellendale High School, posted the following on his Facebook page, along with the photograph at right, which depicts Boston at a victorious moment in a recent football game:

"Rip Boston. You were one of my best friends. Thank you for walking with me through the last five years. You have been a mentor, and more importantly a friend, and a shoulder to lean on. You were just starting to get the hang of life, and everybody around me was so hopeful for you to succeed. I'm so glad that you were here. You were taken from us too soon, way too soon. We were just a couple kids. You will forever have a place in all of our hearts Boston. Fly high buddy."

(photo courtesy of Greg Fuher)

DICKEY COUNTY LEADER

The Official Newspaper of Dickey County

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APPLEFEST: PAGES 10-12

CBS' Restaurant Closing

These two familiar logos will be retired, as the community holds optimism that a new entrepreneur will come along to take up where previous owners and left off.

After just over a year under new management, the CBS' Ellendale (formerly the Fireside Restaurant) is going out of business. "We are sorry to announce that we will be closing for good on September 17th," announced the restaurant's Facebook page last Thursday morning, adding that "This will include the Nest" The post remarked that, "It has been a pleasure serving Ellendale the best we could."

Zachary Broadwell, a TBC business graduate, took over the restaurant in July 2022, under the name "CBS' Ellendale" to compliment the CBS' restaurant in Carrington, which is owned and operated by the Broadwell family. In March of this year, Zachary opened an innovative coffee shop called The Nest in the space previously occupied by the Fireside bar. The Nest was a popular spot, as was the restaurant, and will be sorely missed by regular patrons, who are hoping a new entrepreneur comes along soon to continue this important business.

The restaurant first opened as the Cabin West in May, 1978. In December 1981 it was bought by the Hagan family who renamed it The Ranch. In February 2002, Peggy Gilbert and her husband took ownership and renamed it the Fireside Restaurant and Lounge. Peggy's work over the next twenty years was deeply appreciated by locals and countless out of town customers.

Commenting on the unfortunate closure of the establishment, staff member Joe Erlien said of his work there over the past year, "it's been a great ride."

St. Helena's Fall Dinner is September 17,

Patrons of the St. Helena Catholic Church fall turkey dinner take note! The date for the annual event has changed from the fourth Sunday of September to the third Sunday of September. It will be held September 17 in the education center at 421 North 2nd Street in Ellendale.

A delicious traditional turkey dinner of turkey, mashed potatoes, dressing, gravy, green beans, coleslaw, dinner roll, cranberries and choice of apple or pumpkin pie will be served buffet style beginning at 11:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. Cost is adults $15, kids $7, and kids 4 and under free. Tickets sold at the door.

The annual church raffle drawing will take place at 1:30. Prizes include a handmade quilt, gift baskets, and cash prizes of $100 (8) and $50 (4). Tickets are $2 each or 6 for $10 and can be purchased from any member of St. Helena's now or at the dinner.

We look forward to seeing you for good food and fellowship Sept. 17.

Trinity's "Serve Our City" set for Friday, September 22

Trinity Bible College is once again doing a city service day. "Serve our City" will be Friday, September 22. Trinity will be suspending classes; students, faculty and staff will be available to serve the community from 1 - 5 pm. If you need help at your home or business with something you cannot do or have just been too busy to do, please call the Student Life Office at 349-5438. Property owners are responsible to provide all needed tools/equipment to get the job completed. We will not be collecting or hauling trash or yard debris.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask. Trinity desires to be a blessing to Ellendale by Serving our City! Again, if you would like TBC to help you with a project, call the Student Life Department at 349-5438. They will be waiting for your call to serve! Deadline for signing up is Wednesday, Sept. 20 at 5 p.m.

Recycling Pick Up | Recycling Dumpster Pick up
Garbage Pick Up | Garbage Dumpster Pick Up

September

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
A	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
B	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
A	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Little Mr. & Miss Ellendale 2023-2024

Submitted by Dakota Plains Credit Union, Sponsor of Little Mr. & Miss Ellendale

We had a great turnout Friday night with 17 kids attending the picnic at CBS' Bar and Grill. Thank you to Zach and his staff for making sure the kids and volunteers were well fed and for letting us use his space.

The eligible participants were 5 and 6-year-olds from the Ellendale area. The kids were judged on kindness, personality, participation, and manners. Thank you to the judges for the very difficult job they had to do. As you can see, we only had 5 boys and 12 girls! That made for an even more difficult time judging. I would also like to thank my staff at DPCU for organizing this event again this year.

The 2022 Little Mr. Ellendale was Anton Mueller and Little Miss Ellendale was Hadley Stephenson. Their last appearance as royalty will be the 2023 Homecoming Coronation later this month.

DCPU thanks the parents for letting their kids spend an hour with us. It was great getting to know each of them. These great kids are: Aaron Franklin, son of Chase and Kristy Franklin; Astrid Chafy, daughter of Chris & Laurel Chafy; Bexley Bertsch, daughter of Ty and Stormy Bertsch; Emma Gunther, daughter of Austin and Lucinda Gunter; Henley Hartinger, daughter of Joseph Hartinger and Katrina Ketterling; Hudson Langliers, son of Jon and Kate Langliers; Isabella Radniecki, daughter of Jonathan and Amanda Barton; Maddy Herman, daughter of Jacob and Becca Herman; Mya Rall, daughter of Brent and Angie Rall; Oliver Retzlaff, son of Brad Retzlaff and Pam Cook; Penney Monatukwa, daughter of Craig and Erika Monatukwa; Rhett Hamar, son of Nolan and Brittanie Hamar; Rhylan Hartinger, daughter of Joseph Hartinger and Katrina Ketterling; Rory Olson, daughter of Lane and Alexandra Olson; Ruby Land, daughter of Michael and Rachel Land; Witten Glynn, son of Jim and Ashley Glynn; Zoey Kendall, daughter of Nick and Tabitha Kendall. The 2023 Winners are Witten Glynn and Mya Rall.

Mya Rall was selected as little Miss Ellendale and Witten Glynn as Little Mr. Ellendale. Their smiles tell the story. Photo Ashley Glynn.

Renowned Glass-Plate Photographer's Works on Display at Opera House; Demonstration & Talk Saturday, Sept. 23

North Dakota exhibit documents history with contemporary Native American portraits, by Bismarck wet plate photographer Shane Balkowitsch.

By John Lamb

Bismarck artist Shane Balkowitsch will open his exhibit, "Northern Plains Native Americans: A Modern Wet Plate Perspective," at the Ellendale Opera House on Saturday, September 23 at 3:00 p.m. Shane will be doing a demonstration of wet plate photography and discussing his art. A lottery drawing of approximately five people from the audience will get their wet plate photo taken and the original glass plate.

The show consists of photographs of contemporary Native Americans, and will be available for viewing. All of his proceeds from sales of the prints will go to the American Indian College Fund.

The show is a display of museum-quality prints from the glass plates Shane creates in his Nostalgic Wet Plate Studio in Bismarck. He has shown prints taken from scans of the glass plates and has also exhibited some of the plates themselves. Wanting to make them accessible, he priced 11-by-14-inch framed prints at $250.

These prints were created by master printer Luc Brefeld in the Netherlands.

"I never liked my work in print until I found Luc. They normally pale in comparison to the glass plate, but these are the best representation of those plates," Balkowitsch says.

Shane Balkowitsch is known for old-style portraits of Native Americans and personalities. Before winning Grammys, Jon Batiste sat for famed North Dakota photographer, Shane Balkowitsch. Now, the Bismarck photographer can add a Grammy-winning musician to his list of subjects.

Glass plates can of course be fragile and there's only one for each image. Balkowitsch usually gives the glass plates to a museum as an historical document. By creating these prints off the plate, the photographer is giving his fans and collectors a chance to take home a museum-quality print.

(continued on page 10)

This photo by Shane Balkowitsch illustrates part of the creation of a glass plate print with the colloidal process. Shane is a native of Bismarck, North Dakota. His work has recently been acquired by such diverse institutions as The Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery (Washington D.C.), The Heard Museum (Phoenix, AZ), Gabriel Dumont Institute (Saskatoon), Nordiska Museet (Stockholm), The Library of Congress (Washington D.C.), The Plains Art Museum (Fargo, ND), the Pitt Rivers Museum (University of Oxford) and the Musée cantonal d'archéologie et d'histoire in Switzerland. Shane will explain the process of creating his prints, and a rich selection of his art will be on display at the Opera House Sept. 15, 22, & 29.

Potential for Rural Electric Co-Ops to Tap Millions in Federal Funds for Renewables Projects

Level of ambition for North Dakota projects uncertain
By Michael Standaert, North Dakota News Cooperative

Rural electric cooperatives in North Dakota may soon apply for grants available in a federal program under the Inflation Reduction Act, which could set the tone for investments in renewables here over the next decade.

A total of $9.7 billion has been earmarked for cooperatives across the country under the Empowering Rural America (New ERA) program, administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The program is touted as the largest investment in rural electrification since New Deal era investments in the mid-1930s.

Some analysts say Bismarck-based Basin Electric Power Cooperative, which distributes power to over 100 electric cooperatives serving millions of customers in a range extending from Minnesota down to New Mexico, could stand as one of the biggest recipients of the funding if it sets forth ambitious applications for projects.

A single cooperative is capped at receiving 10 percent – or $970 million – under the program. Applications for the grants are due by mid-September.

"We are actually pursuing this pretty heavily," said Andrew Buntrock, vice president of communications at Basin. "Our main thing is that we have to make sure that it is still economical. Even with additional free money, we have to ensure that it is economical and maintains reliability and affordability for our members."

Buntrock said Basin is in the process of drafting an application, with possibilities ranging from carbon capture technology for coal-fired power units, as well as wind and solar projects.

"With the additional money available, typically the cost of what's subsidized goes up, so we have to weigh that in," Buntrock said.

Interest Robust and Cautious

As a member coop under Basin's umbrella, McKenzie Electric Cooperative in west central North Dakota is watching with interest how the plans develop if Basin is successful in its application, according to Matt Hanson, the co-op's chief operating officer.

Like Buntrock, Hanson cautions that even with extra funding, the costs have to make sense, citing a "plethora of requirements" from labor cost provisions, to Buy America provisions, and other reporting requirements.

"While it's great to leverage our members' taxpayer dollars as best as possible, I would hate to go out and spend double to get exactly what we need and then be subjected to a bunch of other requirements," he said.

An array of solar panels has provided power to the main building at United Tribes Technical College in Bismarck for the past two years. The school is applying for a grant for a much larger project from the Department of Energy for what could be the largest single solar site in the state, according to Edwin Kitzes, land grant director at the school. Photo Michael Standaert.

Hanson also said that projects like this won't happen overnight. A regional transmission authority study would take at least two years, followed by environmental permitting, then material lead times and accessing labor, he said.

"It's a six-to-seven-year evolution to cite really anything of significance," Hanson said.

Josh Kramer, vice president and general manager of the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives, said one barrier was putting together an application in such a short amount of time, but said interest is there.

At the moment, his bigger focus is tapping into Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act programs, and it has been a challenge getting all the members on the same page about what opportunities should be pursued.

(continued on page 3)

DICKEY COUNTY LEADER

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4-H Club Members Beautify Sidewalks in Preparation for Applefest

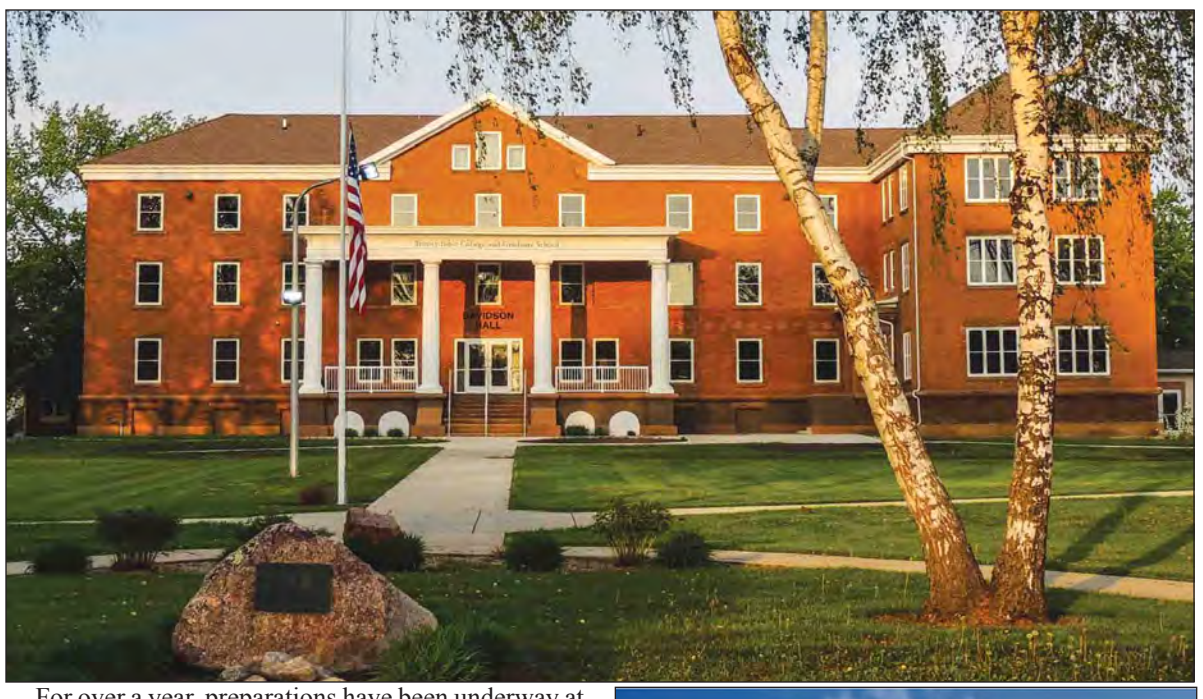
Not wanting to "let grass grow in the streets," Prairie Rose 4-H members got together on August 20 and removed a large amount of pesky weeds from the sidewalks along Highway 281 near the middle of town. Folks who walk along our sidewalks every day may not notice the growth of such weeds, as they don't spring up all at once. Those who pass through our community are more likely to see them, and it's not an ideal look. These 4-H members are hoping that people who come to Ellendale for the Applefest celebration on September 9 are met with weed free streets. Their example of making things look nice is a good one for local property owners to imitate.

4-H members participating in the weed removal project are (left to right) Evoleht Holt, Ceoyne Holt, Maddie Monette, Tate Bratlie, Annah Thorpe, & Owen Bratlie. *photo by Crystal Grueneich*

Back to School!

It was cloudy and cool last Wednesday morning, with a slight drizzle, but that did not dampen the enthusiasm of these students and parents, who were among the first to arrive at the opening day of the 2023-24 school year. The school staff had decorated the lawn with a large "Welcome Back" sign to extend a warm greeting. Careful observers will note the orange poles, flags and safety ribbon at the top of the high school section: these were installed by workers who are installing a new layer of sheathing to the flat roof to forestall any problems with moisture intrusion. The $286,599 roofing restoration project, approved by the school board in June, will soon be complete, protecting the building for many years to come. Students and staff will be glad when the noise of the construction above them abates.

Trinity Bible College Set for 75th Anniversary Celebration, Sept. 7-10



For over a year, preparations have been underway at Trinity Bible College for a major celebration in honor of the 75 years the school has been operating. Trinity began as Lakewood Park Bible School in 1948. In 1960, the school moved to Aberdeen, South Dakota where it went by the name Hub City Bible Institute. In 1966, Trinity Hospital in Jamestown became available. When the campus was moved there it adopted the name of the name of TBI (Trinity Bible Institute). Due to the closure of the UND-Ellendale Branch in 1971, TBI gained a new home, and has been here ever since. With a higher accreditation in 1983, it became Trinity Bible College, and with the addition of post-graduate programs in 2013 the name changed again to Trinity Bible College and Graduate School.

Two of the very early students, Silas (Si) and Martha Leichty of Jamestown, have been faithful supporters of the school for many decades while prospering in several areas of business, including the modular home industry. In advance of the September 7-10 celebration, they wrote a few memories and thoughts about the history of their beloved Trinity and what it has meant to them.

It's exciting to be able to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Trinity Bible College and Graduate School this year. My early memories of Trinity go back to 1948 when in the first year it started as Lakewood Park Bible School, as a six month school. That summer, I helped my father and the other volunteers move two old buildings onto the property: a large old house which became the men's dorm, and an old deserted hotel which became the ladies' dorm, including the kitchen and chapel and the administrative offices.

When school started, there were no steps into the boys dorm, just a wooden ladder made out of 2x4s and 1x4 slats. There was no plumbing in the building, so we had an outdoor privy, and you had to have a pail of water to fill the basin that you would use to wash up with. It's wonderful now to have these facilities in Ellendale and to celebrate this occasion.

God's hand has been on Trinity from the very beginning. It's a blessing to see all the missionaries and pastors who have graduated that are out in the mission field, along with teachers and business people.

I was born and raised 20 miles west of Lakewood

Park Bible School on a farm, so it was convenient for me to drive back-and-forth instead of staying at the school the first semester. I met my wife, Martha, at the school in the fall of 1952, and it was love at first sight. Every day for the past 70 years has been a blessing. We ended up with three children. They are married, and they have given us 10 grandchildren who have married spouses and have now given us 28 great-grandchildren. We are enjoying every one of the family members and get together twice a year. In the summertime, we get together here in North Dakota or Minneapolis, and in the wintertime, we spend the holidays together in Sarasota, Florida.

Si and Martha Liechty

God has blessed us greatly for which we are thankful. We have tried to be a blessing back to Him by supporting many missionaries, three colleges, and other charities that we feel need to be supported. May God's anointing be on Trinity Bible College and Graduate School, and on its staff and leadership as they continue to win souls for the kingdom. We pray that God will bless you all richly as you continue to educate young people.

Blessings with love,
Si and Martha Liechty

See page 3 for memories of TBC shared by Prof. David Bennett

Recycling Pick Up | Recycling Dumpster Pick up
Garbage Pick Up | Garbage Dumpster Pick Up

September

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
A						1	2
B	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
A	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
B	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
A	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Opera House Closed Temporarily for Face Cleaning & Stabilization of West Wall

The front of the Opera House changed in appearance two weeks ago as the 24 plywood panels with paintings recalling the entertainments of the historic building were removed from the windows. The windows were originally boarded up in October 1976, to protect the windows, some of which had been broken by vandalism. In the fall of 2001, O.P.E.R.A. commissioned local artist Boyd Blumer to enhance the window coverings with stylized paintings. "The pictures depict activities that took place in the building," said a 2001 *Leader* article, and are intended to "give a brief glimpse of some of the activities that were part of the building's history." The bottom photo was taken in 2016.

August 22, 2023

The historic Ellendale Opera House was closed to public use Friday (August 19) after structural engineers advised O.P.E.R.A., Inc. that additional deterioration had developed since restoration work on the west wall and foundation began earlier this month.

Two structural engineering firms have consulted on the project and are developing plans to stabilize the wall that will allow completion of the repairs to the wall and foundation.

In addition to the west wall and foundation repairs, the restoration firm has cleaned the front (Main Street) side of the building and removed the plywood inserts that had been covering the front windows.

Adjacent areas along Main Street and Railroad Ave. N (west of the building) have been fenced off as a safety precaution during the renovation work.

O.P.E.R.A. is the charitable non-profit seeking to bring the 114-year-old building back to full use by the community.

The state this spring allocated $250,000 in the N.D. Historical Society budget to assist with renovations of the pera house.

The organization is seeking to match the state allocation as part of its current Future Now Fund Drive.

This year's fund drive includes incentive for donors including:

- A dollar-for-dollar match by O.P.E.R.A. supporters up to a maximum of $25,000.
- "Acres for O.P.E.R.A." to encourage farm owners to donate a portion of their crop to the non-profit organization.
- Donors of $250 or more between now and December 31 will receive a custom-designed O.P.E.R.A. coffee mug.

To contribute to the Future Now Fund Drive, mail your donation to O.P.E.R.A., Inc. at P.O. Box 334, Ellendale, ND 58436, or donate online at:

www.ellendaleoperahouse.com

O.P.E.R.A. – Organization of People in Ellendale for Restoration of the Arts – was formed in 1992 to save the Main Street landmark, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Because O.P.E.R.A. is a charitable non-profit organization, all donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

All donors will have their names listed on a display in the Opera House Lobby & Gallery. Donations can be made to honor other individuals or family members and have those names listed on the donor display.

For additional information, call 701-535-0347 or email: **jmmeid@hotmail.com**

DICKEY COUNTY LEADER

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Celebration of Life

There will be a Celebration of Life for Roberta Johnson, former editor of the *Dickey County Leader,* at 2:00 PM, Sunday August 6 at the Ellendale Public School. Jeff Fastnacht, former Superintendent of the school (now Superintendent of the Bismarck Public Schools) will be the special speaker.

Roberta was much loved and will always be remembered for her fine newspaper work, and especially for her coverage of Cardinals athletics. She is missed but her legacy of support for her community through journalism, patriotism and public service will live on.

New York Kammermusiker at South Park Friday August 6, 6:00 PM - Free Concert

On August 6 (Friday) at 6:00 pm some very unusual and amazing sounds will begin to waft on the breezes at South Park. The New York Kammermusiker, a world-renowned double-reed woodwinds ensemble, will begin their free concert, delighting fans of fine music. The group, led by North Dakota native, has performed in Ellendale several times in recent years to much acclaim. This is the first time post-COVID that they have been back.

This unique and rare musical experience is part of the New York City-based group's annual "Winds of Change" tour, originated by NYK's founder and North Dakota native Ilonna Pederson. Pederson began New York Kammermusiker in 1969 in an effort to "reintroduce the instruments and the music of the double-reed band to modern audiences." The members of the group vary and are "drawn from some of the world's finest musicians," and in the past have included musicians from the Vienna Philharmonic, the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, the Munich Philharmonic, and the state of Mexico Symphony Orchestra.

The Kammermusiker group was featured on Valley News Live (TV) during their 2019 North Dakota Tour. They played in Ellendale and in a number of venues including the Chahinkapa Zoo in Wahpeton, where both people and animals greatly appreciated their music.

Accolades for the group's performances are not hard to find, and they come from around the world. Here are a few:

• "The quality of the musicians surpasses the imagination. Their virtuosity surmounts every challenge, of course, but the beauty of timbury, sensitive interpretation, and perfect balance collectively achieved by the artists are the fruits of a long and detailed labor

--*Sud-Ouest*, Royan France

• "The members of the New York Kammermusiker, as well as all being accomplished soloists, are a splendidly coordinated team, and their ensemble work was excellent.

--*The Times*, Musica Viva Concert, Canberra, Australia

• "The New York Kammermusiker is a group whose technical brilliance and magnificent ensemble playing are perfectly suited to present the oboe and its related instruments as splendid solo instruments outside the orchestra."

--*Volkszeitung,* Carinthian Summer Festival, Ossiach, Austria

The concert in Ellendale is arranged through the Ellendale Area Arts Council and sponsored by the Ellendale Area Foundation and Ellendale Tourism. All concerts in the park are free of charge, with donations accepted.

Everyone is encouraged to bring a lawn chair and bring a friend (or several).

Concert in the Park Was a Big Hit

Ian Flanigan of "The Voice" fame

Ron Parker & Patrick Woods of Aberdeen

Matt Payne of Ellendale

"I thought he was great," said Justin Meidinger, who introduced Ian Flanigan to a large crowd that gathered in the shade last Sunday evening for a late July concert in the park. "I liked the more stripped down performance more than studio edited stuff--he's such a raw talent that if you put too much producing top of it, it sort of takes away his uniqueness. And he couldn't have been a nicer guy." Flanigan was a great crowd pleaser in Ellendale.

The evening's music started off with keyboard maestro and vocalist Ron Parker & Patrick Woods, singing some favorites and some originals. Matt Payne, who works at Trinity Bible College, said he "grew up with the blues" and he took the opportunity to play the music that still runs in his veins.

photos by Ken Smith

School Starts August 23: See Back Page for Information

Recycling Pick Up | Recycling Dumpster Pick up

Garbage Pick Up | Garbage Dumpster Pick Up

August

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
A			1	2	3	4	5
B	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
A	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
B	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
A	27	28	29	30	31		

Generous State Grant is Major Move Forward for Opera House; Fund Drive Seeks State-Wide Donor Support

Editor's Note: Fans of the Opera House have been working steadily for 25 years to preserve the historic landmark. The ongoing project received a considerable boost during the last legislative session when a $250,000 grant from State Historical Society funds was approved. While those funds are yet to be used, several projects are underway right now with use of moneys raised in previous drives. These include large-scale rewiring of the building to bring it up to all relevant electrical codes, the securing of the foundation on the west side of the building, and the pouring of a new sidewalk after that foundation work is complete.

The *Leader* has been an enthusiastic supporter of the project during all these years, and will continue to bring our readers up to date on projects and progress, as well as coverage of Opera House events. We found this latest update from O.P.E.R.A to be both informative and encouraging.

Ellendale, July 20, 2023

Restoration of the historic Ellendale Opera House got a big boost from the State of North Dakota this year, and the non-profit group heading up the renovation hopes the state backing will translate into contributions from donors statewide.

O.P.E.R.A., Inc. – the charitable non-profit seeking to bring the 110-year-old building back to full use – was allocated $250,000 in the N.D. Historical Society budget to assist with renovations of the opera house.

"We're hoping to build on the state's endorsement and funding of the opera house restoration with this year's **Future Now Fund Drive**, O.P.E.R.A.'s Executive Director Justin Meidinger, said.

"We believe the time is right to make significant progress on the opera house restoration, and we will be reaching out to foundations and individuals beyond our community for financial support of the project," Meidinger said.

O.P.E.R.A. has raised nearly $200,000 over the last three years to support renovation work and more than $500,000 since 1992 to restore the building.

Work on the building – listed on the National Register of Historic Places – has been ongoing for more than 25 years.

"With the state funding, we hope to make critical repairs to return the upstairs auditorium to public use on a limited basis, and renovate the two currently vacant street-level storefronts," he said.

Major contributions to the opera house restoration will be sought from foundations in the state during the Future Now Fund Drive, as well as special solicitations to individuals with a history of providing support for historic restoration projects in the state.

"The ultimate goal of the fund drive is to obtain private financial contributions to match the state's investment," Meidinger said. "The goal may be a high bar for just supporters in the community, but if we reach out to donors from across the state we believe it is achievable."

Also part of this year's fund drive effort:

• All contributions will be matched dollar-for-dollar by O.P.E.R.A. supporters up to a maximum of $25,000.

• "Acres for O.P.E.R.A." is being offered to encourage farm owners to donate a portion of their crop to the non-profit organization. Donating grain directly to O.P.E.R.A. can provide tax benefits to farm owners. (Farm owners should consult a tax professional to determine if the program would benefit them.)

• And, those who donate $250 or more between now and December 31 will receive a custom designed O.P.E.R.A. coffee mug.

To contribute to the Future Now Fund Drive, mail your donation to O.P.E.R.A., Inc. at P.O. Box 334, Ellendale, ND 58436, or donate online at: www.ellendaleoperahouse.com. O.P.E.R.A. – Organization of People in Ellendale for Restoration of the Arts – was formed in 1992 to save the Main Street landmark from the wrecking ball.

Because O.P.E.R.A. is a charitable non-profit organization, all donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

All donors will have their names listed on a display in the Opera House Lobby & Gallery. Donations can be made to honor other individuals or family members and have those names listed on the donor display. For additional information, call 701-535-0347 or email: jmmeid@hotmail.com.

(continued on page 3)

Completed in 1909, the Ellendale Opera House was reputed to be the largest of its kind between Minneapolis and Seattle. Its construction was a major mark of pride for the town of Ellendale.

The top floor of the Opera House held as many as 1,000 spectators for a wide variety of entertainments, drawing attendees from Dickey County and far beyond.

As shown in this photo, restoration at street level so far covers half of the building, which includes the lobby. Renovating the exterior of the left half is on the agenda following the present work of rebuilding the electrical system and placing a new sidewalk on the west side, along with work on the lower west wall.

The Opera House lobby, which was fully restored in 2009, has been the venue for hundreds of arts-related events and presentations and public meetings, and is used regularly. It includes a working kitchen that provides space and equipment for hosting all manner of events.

The 25 panels that cover the front windows, with scenes illustrating the entertainments hosted in the building over many decades, were installed to protect the glass. Their replacement will be one of the steps toward bringing the building back to restored condition.

photos courtesy of O.P.E.R.A.

DICKEY COUNTY LEADER

The Official Newspaper of Dickey County

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Coleman Museum to Hold Birthday Party & "MemoryFest" June 13

Jackie Holsinger Rossi has seen a lot of change in her nine decades. Growing up in Ellendale in the 1930's and 1940's, she witnessed the response of the community to economic hard times, challenging weather patterns, and war mobilization.

When Jackie left the area after graduating from high school, the memories of her youth did not melt away. Instead, they remained like a treasure trove of artifacts in a gallery that she could visit but that she could only describe to her loved ones. Her children and grandchildren knew there was something special about Ellendale, because they believed her stories. And so they decided, as she neared her 95th birthday, that they would honor her earnest desire to return to her childhood hometown. They obtained a nice RV and scheduled a summer trip to Ellendale from their home in Washington.

The family contacted the Ellendale Historical society and the newspaper, telling of their plans, and wondering if there might be individuals still living in the area who would remember Jackie. A few possibilities turned up, but they were uncertain. And so in accord with the Historical Society, the family decided to fund a birthday party in which *everybody is welcome*, of whatever age, whether or not they knew Jackie or the Holsinger family.

The birthday party MemoryFest, will begin at June 13 at 12:00 noon in the rear addition at the Coleman Memorial Museum. A free meal will be served, featuring pulled pork on buns, coleslaw, chips, and, of course birthday cake!

In the accompanying "MemoryFest," Jackie and anyone else of her generation or the following generations will be invited to talk about special memories associated with Ellendale. A slide show will be presented as well, with photographic illustrations from the 1920's-1950's, many enhanced by Kevin Kendall.

Ken Smith will emcee the event and will be able to provide details about many of the photographs. Attendees will be welcome to share their own memories that were spurred by seeing the photographs.

This event will not only be a special one for Jackie, it will provide a great chance for everyone to enjoy food and fellowship amid the displays at the museum, and be inspired about the value of making memories and sharing them, whether one is young or old or somewhere in the middle. See you at noon on June 13 at the museum!

NOTE: Jackie's love for the Ellendale area probably stems in part from her father, Gordon Holsinger, (1901-1992), who recorded over 200 pages of memories he gathered growing up and living in our area. *See page 4 for a sample of Gordon's "Ramblins."*

Memorial Day 2023

Honoring the fallen: left to right, Christina Dathe, Dawn Wald, Judy Wedell, Barbi Martin, Sue Merkel, Resa Russell, & Karen Hoffman. At the podium is Grant Crabtree; in Civil War regalia are Charlie Russell, and Jacob Russell; Jeff Langley (speaker of the day), Don Nishek (seated), & Gary Dathe.

Memorial Day Address
At the Ellendale Cemetery, May 29, 2023

Chaplain Jeff Langley was introduced by emcee Grant Crabtree as follows: "Jeff joined the military out of High School and served on active duty in the Air Force for 20 years before retiring in 2003. He had a hand in Operation Desert Storm, Southern Watch and Enduring Freedom."

Good morning.

Three years after the civil war ended in May 1868, the head of an organization of union veterans called the Grand Army of the Republic (the GAR) established "Decoration Day" as the time to decorate the graves of the dead with flowers. Major General John A. William declared that it should be May 30th. It is believed the date was chosen because flowers would be in bloom all over the country.

The first large observance was held that year at Arlington National Cemetery, across the Potomac River from Washington, DC. The ceremony centered around the draped veranda of the Arlington mansion, once the home of general Robert E Lee. Various Washington officials, including general and Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant, presided over the ceremonies.

After speeches, children from the soldiers and sailors orphan home, and members of the guard made their way through the cemetery strewing flowers on both union and confederate graves, reciting prayers and singing hymns.

Though the springtime tributes to the Civil War dead had already been held in various places, one of the first occurred in Columbus, Mississippi on April 25, 1866, when a group of women visited a cemetery to decorate the graves of confederate soldiers who had fallen in the battle at Shiloh. Nearby were the graves of Union soldiers, long neglected because they were the enemy. Disturbed at the sight of their graves, the women placed some of their flowers on those graves as well. Today, cities in the North as well as the South claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day. Both both Macon, Georgia and Columbus, Georgia claim the title, as well as Richmond, Virginia.

The village of Boalsburg, Pennsylvania claims that it began there two years earlier. And a stone in a Carbondale, Illinois cemetery carries the statement "The first decoration day ceremony took place here on April 29, 1866." Carbondale, by the way, was the wartime home of General Logan.

Approximately 25 places have been named in connection with the origin of Memorial Day. Many of them in the South, where most of the war dead were buried. In 1966 Congress and President Lyndon Johnson declared Waterloo, New York as the birthplace of Memorial Day. There, a ceremony on May 5, 1866 honored local veterans who had fought in the Civil War. Businesses closed and residences flew flags at half-staff. Supporters of Waterloo's claim say earlier observances in other places were either informal, not community wide, or were one-time events.

By the end of the 19th century, Memorial Day ceremonies were being held throughout the nation. State legislatures passed proclamations designating the day. The Army and Navy adopted regulations for proper observance at their facilities. It was not until after World War I, however, that the day was expanded to honor those who had died in all American wars.

In 1971 Memorial Day was declared a national holiday by the act of Congress, though it is still often called "Decoration Day." It was then also placed on the last Monday in May.

Memorial Day is a fitting tribute to our veterans who have passed. It reminds us of their memory, and it teaches our future generations about service, sacrifice and patriotism. It also teaches our potential enemies a powerful lesson: as some have found out in the past, that while we debate and argue over many issues in our day, that should not be seen as a sign of weakness in our national resolve, but of strength. Imperial Japan and al Qaeda, just to name a few, have made the mistake of thinking such things.

Our national life is one of debate, and talking over the dinner table about the issues of our day. This holiday is a powerful sign of our national resolve to preserve our freedom and democracy. It annually shows, to both friends and enemies alike, that we are forever committed to the high ideals for which our nation is founded: freedom of religion, the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. These ideals are a universal statement of principles that we have been, still are, and will continue to be committed to.

UND-EB Alum Ron Vossler, Scholar of German-Russian History & Culture, to Speak at Opera House, June 22

Ron Vossler, during an Art for Life presentation at the Benedictine Living Center, February 2019

Those who come out to the Opera House at 7:00 on June 22 will get to hear from a scholar and writer who has spent most of his life thinking about the unique culture and history of the German Russian people of the Dakotas. Wishek native Ron Vossler, recently retired from a long career as an English professor at the University of North Dakota, understands this topic from a personal, experiential viewpoint as well as through intensive studies and countless personal interviews.

Ron has long understood his people-- the German-Russian immigrants to the Dakotas, as having certain characteristic ways of looking at the world and assessing the relative value of the things of life. His curiosity about the background of these traditions and folkways, sometimes expressed through religious sentiment, sometimes through humor, sometimes through well-worn proverbs, led him to deep research both at home and abroad.

Much of this research involved translating letters, written in German, from those suffering famine in the Ukraine during the Stalin years (mainly the early 1930s). They were written to relatives in places like Ashley, Eureka, Wishek, and Strasburg, begging and praying for assistance as they faced imminent starvation. Ron's research later involved extended trips to the villages from which these letters came. Ron discovered a great deal of "dark history" and trauma whose echoes still go on today.

Ron is also known, however, for his work on German-Russian folk humor. His lucid descriptions of real-life situations and the hilarity that this immigrant culture derived from them, has had many audiences practically falling off their chairs with laughter.

Ron's talk in Ellendale will be more light than dark. Titled "*Beyond the Sauerkraut Curtain: My Two Years at the Ellendale 'Collech,"* it will focus on how he learned about the big world beyond the cultural enclave of his McIntosh County hometown. A student at UND-EB from 1966-68, he gained insights and experiences that would shape the rest of this life, in some expected and some unexpected ways.

The talk will be sponsored by the Ellendale Area Arts Council. Admission is free and all are welcome.

June Exhibit at the Opera House

A lovely new exhibit at the Opera House features watercolor works by Riley Goehring and Cate Monroe. The display is open each Friday afternoon this June. You can also see the works at the June 22 event with Ron Vossler.

SEE AD ON BACK PAGE

Note from the City of Ellendale: Please remove memorials at the cemetery by JUNE 11, 2023. All memorials remaining after June 11, 2023, will be discarded by the cemetery caretaker.

Planting of trees and shrubs is not allowed.

Recycling Pick Up | Recycling Dumpster Pick up
Garbage Pick Up | Garbage Dumpster Pick Up

June

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
B					1	2	3
A	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
B	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
A	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
B	25	26	27	28	29	30	

A Snapshot from Zion Lutheran History: The Baby Boom

Zion Lutheran celebrates its 100th anniversary this weekend. On June 10, there will be an open house from 1:00 to 5:00, with fellowship and refreshments. On June 11, the 9:30 worship (with Rev. Dennis O'Neil as guest speaker) will be followed by a public meal, and a large crowd is expected. At 3:00 there will be a special service with Leo Deitemeyer as guest speaker.

ABOUT THE PHOTO: Like most of Ellendale's congregations, Zion Lutheran was blessed in the 1950's and 1960's with a large supply of cute, lively kids. The dedication of the new church building in November 1954 came not a moment too soon, as the former building, across from the courthouse, was far too small. This photo of Leona Monteith and her 17 VBS students is from the late 1950's. The kids' expressions suggest energy and enthusiasm; Leona's expression suggests a devoted seriousness about the responsibility for nurturing the new generation.

This photo, from the Coleman Museum collection, was enhanced by Kevin Kendall, and it drew much commentary when he posted it on the "You Know You're From Ellendale" Facebook page. See the post and the comments at

bit.ly/zionvbs1

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BLC Memorial Service

A special memorial service was held last Thursday at the Benedictine Living Center to honor the lives of ten residents who have passed away since December. The program for the event featured a striking piece of watercolor art by another resident, Peg Schemmel. In a visit with Peg after the service, we discovered that she is quite a talented "freelance artist" who not only paints but does calligraphy and creates beautiful necklaces and other jewelry. "I've been doing art since I was in second grade," she said, "and I've also taught art." Peg and her husband Wade, a retired minister, are both residents at BLC.

See page 9 for details on the Memorial Service.

Arts Council Annual Meeting is May 20 at the Opera House

This collage shows a few of the programs and events that the Arts Council has organized in recent years. There is much more to come!

The Ellendale Area Arts Council will hold its annual meeting at the Opera House at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 20. A short business session will take place, then this year's special presenters, Molly McLain and Aaron Barth, will speak. The general public is welcome, and refreshments will be served. Their presentation will begin around 10:30.

Molly is an artist and promoter of the arts who has played a major role in the Arts Center in Jamestown as Resident Artist, and currently is heavily involved in the arts community in Bismarck.

Dr. Aaron Barth is the Executive Director of the Northern Plains Heritage Foundation, which is devoted to promoting the people & places of the Missouri River in Central North Dakota. He has done important original research on the commemoration of the 1863 events at Whitestone State Historical site. Among other discoveries, he has uncovered a great deal of the background behind the creation of the murals that adorn the ceiling of the Dickey County courthouse. Those who attend will find their time well spent.

The meeting will be joined by participants in Arts Across the Prairie, a major initiative that plans a series of large-scale artworks in multiple regions across the state. Those participants, along with other locals, are planning an afternoon tour of the Missouri Couteau, which will include the Forbes Museum, Johnson's Gulch, and the Whitestone State Historical site. If you are interested in the tour, call Ken Smith at 701-320-2794 or email kelandsmith@ gmail.com

Memorial Day is May 29!

Note from the City of Ellendale: Cemetery memorials may be placed in the city cemetery beginning MAY 21, 2023.

Please remove memorials by JUNE 11, 2023.

All memorials remaining after June 11, 2023, will be discarded by the cemetery caretaker.

Planting of trees and shrubs is not allowed.

Special Landfill Hours: 2 More Days

If you need access to the dump, you have two more extra days during the special extended hours spring cleanup period. Hours on May 18 will be 8 AM to Noon; on May 19, Noon to 4 PM, and on May 20, 10 AM to 4 PM. After this, regular April 1 to September 30 hours will be in place, which are Monday, Wednesday & Friday 5:00-8:00 and Saturday from 10:00 to 4:00.

Recycling Pick Up | Recycling Dumpster Pick up
Garbage Pick Up | Garbage Dumpster Pick Up

May

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
B		1	2	3	4	5	6
A	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
B	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
A	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
B	28	29	30	31			

State Funds Secured for Opera House, Whitestone, Dist. 28 Legislators Report on Session

Story & photos by Ken Smith

Supporters of historical preservation got some good news from District 28 legislators last week. A second press release prepared by Senator Robert Erbele and Representatives Mike Brandenburg and Jim Grueneich confirmed what had previously been hopeful rumor. The press release announced "$250,000 to help with the restoration of the opera house in Ellendale and $250,000 to improve interpretive information at the Whitestone Battlefield and to create a memorial to the Native Americans who lost their lives there."

The restoration of the historic Ellendale Opera House, one of the largest such facilities erected between Minneapolis and Seattle, has been an ongoing effort of preservationists for over three decades. The project is ambitious, but a great deal of progress has been made in recent years, and current developments are very promising.

The monument and grave markers atop Whitestone Hill, which commemorate the U.S. Cavalrymen who died there, have dominated the landscape at the state historical site for over a century. The new funding will seek to adequately commemorate the hundreds of Native Americans who were killed in the notorious 1863 encounter.

Greg Gackle, who for many years has helped spearhead the Opera House restoration effort, was gratified by the news. Greg and his wife Judy spent several days in Ellendale last week, visiting with friends, attending a meeting of the O.P.E.R.A. board, and talking with the *Leader* staff about the past, present and future of Ellendale, and of course, of the Opera House.

The O.P.E.R.A. board, said Greg, is "looking at using the additional state funds to renovate the remaining street-level storefronts on Main Street and make repairs that would enable limited use of the third floor auditorium."

Already planned for this summer is a full electrical upgrade that will cost about $60,000 and will pave the way for further interior work. The upgrade, Greg said, was scheduled to begin last fall, but severe supply-chain related shortages of electrical components have caused delays.

Also, Greg added, "we have a matching grant from the state historical society for repair of the west foundation and replacement of the west sidewalk. The total cost of that work is estimated at $50,000. We hope to have that work completed this year as well."

"O.P.E.R.A.," said Gackle, "very much appreciates the efforts of the area legislators to support the ongoing restoration of the opera house and bring the historic landmark back to full use by the community."

In another Ellendale related development, the legislators mentioned "assisting the City of Ellendale in its nearly 20-year effort to establish a walking and biking trail on a former railroad bed." Lana Schlecht, who has spearheaded the effort, was delighted to learn that Jim Greuneich had intervened to make it possible to obtain the abandoned Great Northern rail bed, which has long been a goal of the walking path effort.

More text from last week's second legislative report, released last Friday, discussed other matters of interest to District 28 constituents, read as follows:

While citizens sometimes confuse the out-of-control spending at the federal level with North Dakota's budget process, the District 28 legislative team reminds people that the North Dakota Constitution prohibits deficit spending by the state and mandates a balanced budget.

Team members Sen. Robert Erbele of Lehr, Rep. Mike Brandenburg of Edgeley and Rep. Jim Grueneich of Ellendale point out that the 2023 Legislative Assembly adopted a balanced budget with zero increase in taxes and an ending fund balance of $288 million. The legislature adopted the largest tax cut in the state's history.

Some other accomplishments of the session include:

• Working with other rural legislators to successfully bring a $3 billion "green" hydrogen fertilizer plant and wind farm to the area. The fertilizer plant will decrease U.S. reliance on foreign countries and will provide 50 percent of the state's fertilizer needs.

(continued on page 4)

German Lutheran Roots, part 2: From Country to Town

Those who know Ellendale well will likely recognize the location in the photo above. It is right across the street from the public school playground, kitty corner from the courthouse. The steeple, the telephone pole and the hitching rail are gone and the street is paved, but the buildings are still being put to good use as a home and an apartment building. The church, erected in 1885, with the parsonage next door, served Ellendale's Presbyterian congregation until 1923, when a new German congregation, the *Evangelisch Lutherische Zionsgemeinde* (Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church) of Ellendale purchased it.

Above is an early photo of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Forbes, which was also incorporated in 1923. Both churches were organized by Rev. Paul Kluender, a highly talented minister who served area churches, including Christ Lutheran in Albion township and St. Paul's Lutheran in Monango, for 15 years. Shortly after the Ellendale and Forbes congregations were organized, Kluender accepted a call to a sizable parish in Melrose Park, Illinois, where he enjoyed another fifty years of highly fruitful ministry. Kluender was just one of a close-knit network of devoted ministers who led German Lutheran congregations through periods of great societal change.

By Ken Smith

On June 4, Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Forbes will celebrate its 100th birthday, with a special service followed by a meal at the Forbes Legion Hall. The following weekend (June 10 and 11), Zion Lutheran Church in Ellendale will also celebrate its centennial. The two Missouri Synod congregations have common roots stretching back to the early 1880's, when Christ Lutheran in Albion township was organized. Christ Lutheran was served in the early years by a half-dozen circuit-riding ministers who served multiple congregations. The first of these ministers, Rev. Tietjje Hinck, was profiled in our May 4 issue. This week we continue with part 2 of our series on "German Lutheran Roots."

Writing about developments in Missouri Synod movement between the Civil War and World War 1 (roughly 1865-1918), Lutheran historian Everette Meier identified "two dominant characteristics." The first, he wrote, was "a vigorous theological conservatism," and the second--shared with other ethnic groups--was "a continued isolation from American linguistic, economic, and social patterns." These characteristics, according to Meier "were intensified because the majority of the synod's membership was rural," while "during the same period most other American churches were moving in the opposite direction."

Of these three factors—linguistic, economic, and social—undoubtedly the most important was the first: As the 20th century got underway, Missouri Lutheran services and catechisms were nearly always conducted in the German language. The transition from the mother tongue to English was part of a broader adaptation to American culture marked by an earnest desire to preserve a pure doctrinal and spiritual heritage amid the compromise and chaos that was seen to characterize much of the American religious landscape.

Meiers' comment about ethnic isolation is, or course, a generalization that may be more applicable to some German Lutheran communities and less applicable to others. In any case, there is no doubt that this pattern began to change rapidly in the 1910's, especially after World War I.

Rev. Paul Kluender began his 70-year career in ministry in rural Ellendale, and completed it as pastor of a major congregation in a Chicago suburb (photo enhanced by Kevin Kendall).

Most readers will know that the war against Germany involved a home front reaction against all things German, including, of course, the German language. This reaction was less severe in North Dakota than in many places, partly because German ancestry was so common. Nevertheless, German speaking communities felt external pressure to relinquish their language, in addition to internal desire to adopt mainstream American norms.

Rev. Paul Luther Kluender, whose ministry in our area spanned the crucial World War I years, illustrates the Missouri Synod's broader transition from predominantly rural congregations to town churches, and from nearly exclusively German language ministry to inclusive, bilingual ministry.

(continued on page 10)

DICKEY COUNTY LEADER

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Prairie Rose 4-H'ers Spread May 1 Cheer

Last Monday afternoon, the *Leader* received a couple of smiling guests who were out adding to the cheer that's felt around the area now that spring seems to have emerged. Ella Maxon under the *Leader* sign (at the bottom of the collage) presented us with a hand-decorated May basket filled with goodies, a gift card from the Nest coffee shop at CBS', and a thank you card for supporting the local 4-H club. The Prairie Rose kids did the same for some 20 other businesses up and down Main Street, making it a happy day in more ways than one. The *Leader* looks forward to hearing more about the work of this lively 4-H group!

photo collage courtesy of the Prairie Rose 4-H Club

Close Up Students in Washington, D.C.

Close Up participants from EHS took few moments with ND Congressman Kelly Armstrong on the steps of the US Capitol Building to learn a few basics about the work done on "the hill." Back Row (l to r): Saige Ducheneaux, Bernice Kotze, Anton Geller, Jack Bommersbach, Kade Schimke; Front Row (l to r): Rep. Kelly Armstrong, Destiny Broome, Chenoa Napton, Kali Norton, Kaylin Slivoskey, and Mackenzie Thorpe

Each year as spring arrives, a select group of EHS high school students look forward to a trip to Washington DC, where they tour the capitol grounds, speak with state officials, and are briefed on the workings of the US federal government, getting a better appreciation of how it affects their lives and the life of their state and community.

The Close Up Foundation is a nonprofit, nonpartisan civic education organization in Washington, D.C. Established in 1971, Close Up offers programming to educate and encourage young people to participate in their civic affairs and government.

About 850,000 students and teachers to date have participated in its programs. This year, 10 more from Ellendale were added to that growing list.

This year's group was led by Jeannine Gibson, who teaches English and Social Science at EHS. Mrs. Gibson asked those on the tour about what they experienced and what it meant to them, and these are a few of the responses.

Saige Ducheneaux: "I was so glad to be able to go on such a wonderful trip. My classmates were awesome and it's not everyday you get to see the big towns like Washington D.C. and New York City. For the little amount of sleep I got, seeing the history of our country and learning more about politics was definitely a plus."

Mackenzie Thorpe: "Close Up was an amazing opportunity! Getting to explore DC while learning about Congress was something that I would not have been able to do if it wasn't for Close Up. Thank you to everyone who made this possible."

Kali Norton: "I had a great experience at Close Up. I learned a lot about what goes into lawmaking and our government. I also learned a lot about myself and my own political values. I really enjoyed hearing everyone else's opinions, as we were all from different parts of the country. I would recommend this program to other people."

Kaylin Slivoskey: "Close Up is an experience I will talk about to anyone who will listen. I never thought I'd meet so many people and have so much fun. With living in a small town, I'm really thankful I had the opportunity to go and see new places while being with my friends at the same time. I saw some really cool places, met great people, and I'd do it all over again if I could."

Jack Bommersbach: "I think that Close Up is an experience that you should definitely take part in. Many students and adults do not have the same opportunities to meet their representatives in Congress and visit these monuments. Worth the fund raising and worth the week to attend."

Anton Geller: "I really liked Close Up because it was amazing to see all the memorials and monuments in person. I also loved meeting and hanging out with a bunch of people from all over the United States. Another thing is if you ever get to watch the play, *Shucked*, I would watch it. It's super good!"

Destiny Broome: "The main thing that I took away for my Close Up trip is that we do not appreciate the things that we have. Every memorial that we went to hit something in me that nothing else has.

I felt very sad when going to the memorials, especially the 9-11 memorial because it left an imprint on the world and how we see things. My workshop leader in DC, Elana, was the best. She would always give us insights to the different memorials, and I love that she would also make sure that everyone would participate. When we had any free time, we would play a game as a group. If anyone is thinking about going to Close Up, I would 100% go. It was an amazing adventure that I had."

May 20 Arts Council Annual Meeting to Feature Arts Leader, Expert on Dickey County Courthouse Murals

The Ellendale Area Arts Council will be holding its annual meeting at the Opera House at 10:00 on Saturday, May 20. A very short business session will take place, then this year's special presenters, Molly McLain and Aaron Barth, will speak. The general public is welcome, and refreshments will be served. Their presentation will begin around 10:30.

Molly is an artist and promoter of the arts who has played a major role in the Arts Center in Jamestown as Resident Artist, and currently is heavily involved in the arts community in Bismarck. Her presentation will offer inspiration to all who are interested in furthering arts-related efforts in our area.

Molly and Aaron and their daughter are vigorous, well grounded North Dakotans. The couple enjoy living in the region and they pursue their work with a strong sense of history and artistic awareness.

Aaron Barth is the Executive Director of the Northern Plains Heritage Foundation, which is devoted to promoting the people & places of the Missouri River in Central North Dakota. Aaron has a special interest in Dickey County, as his recent Ph.D. Dissertation, written under Prof. Tom Isern of NDSU, examines history related to the deadly encounter between Natives and U.S. Cavalry that is memorialized at Whitestone Hill.

Aaron's research explores the ways this and other regional historical events have been remembered over time. Among other discoveries, he has uncovered a great deal of the background behind the creation of the murals that adorn the ceiling of the Dickey County courthouse. Those who attend will find their time well spent.

2023 Close Up Sponsors

- Ellendale American Legion Post #137
- Ellendale Masons Lodge #13
- Farmers Union Oil Co.
- Land O Lakes
- 701 Cafe
- Amber Miller
- Choice Bank
- Cotter Dental
- D&B Repair
- Dakota Plains Credit Union
- DRN / Readitech
- Ellendale Pharmacy
- Farmers Union Insurance
- Green Iron Equipment
- Imaginit
- Jay's Hi-Way Furniture
- Kristi Gilbert
- KW Prints
- Lazy Daisy Boutique
- Nishek Insurance
- OLS Tubs
- Olson Farms
- Pheasant Lanes
- Prairie Floral
- Rall Ranch
- Simple Wolf
- Starion Bank
- Touch of Class
- Trinity Bible College & Graduate School
- True Value
- Z's Fresh Market

Special Landfill Hours for Spring Cleanup, May 8-20

It's spring cleaning time! The City of Ellendale will not be conducting a curb side pickup campaign this year. However the landfill will be open many extra days this month. Open hours at the landfill will be as follows:

May 8	3 to 8 PM	May 15	3 to 8 PM
May 9	8 AM to Noon	May 16	8 AM to Noon
May 10	3 to 8 PM	May 17	3 to 8 PM
May 11	8 AM to Noon	May 18	8 AM to Noon
May 12	Noon to 4 PM	May 19	Noon to 4 PM
May 13	10 AM to 4 PM	May 20	10 AM to 4 PM
May 14	CLOSED		

Recycling Pick Up | Recycling Dumpster Pick up
Garbage Pick Up | Garbage Dumpster Pick Up

May

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
B		1	2	3	4	5	6
A	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
B	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
A	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
B	28	29	30	31			

Did The 2023 ND Legislature Touch You? Probably!

By Isabelle Ballalatak & Zachary Weiand, ND Newspaper Association

BISMARCK -- If you are a banker or a sports bettor, an electrician or a farmer or a parent – whoever you are, the 2023 North Dakota Legislature likely has affected your life in some way, by a little or a lot.

In no particular order of significance, here's a sampling of what we mean.

If you're a parent of a child in a private school, you won't be receiving public tuition aid. Gov. Burgum vetoed HB 1532, which would have created an education reimbursement program.

But if you have little ones, children's diapers will now be exempted from the state sales tax with the signing of HB 1177.

If you drive on state roads, know that with the signing of SB 2362, motorists may now be pulled over solely for not wearing a seat belt.

And watch the booze while biking. HB 1506 declares that anyone riding a bicycle (or animal) on a roadway or public area while intoxicated to a significant degree will be assessed a fee of $200.

If you enjoy sports betting, you will need to travel to one of the state's Indian reservations or to another state. The Senate killed HCR 3002, which would have created a ballot measure allowing the voters of North Dakota to legalize sports betting.

Corporate farming, child care

If you're a farmer, you may soon start a corporate operation. HB 1371, which would legalize some forms of corporate farming, passed both chambers and is waiting for the governor's signature.

If you own a childcare center, you will not be receiving reimbursements from the state. The House killed SB 2301, which would have created a child-care stabilization program to reimburse licensed child care facilities based on the number of children in their care.

If you're a parent with limited income, you will not be receiving a 5-10% increase through the childcare assistance program. The House killed SB 2190.

If you're a curler, you can brag that yours is the official state sport of North Dakota.

If you're a North Dakotan living with Type I diabetes, you may pay less for life-saving insulin. SB 2140, signed by the governor, caps the price of a 30-day supply of insulin at $25 for those covered by the North Dakota Employees Retirement Program.

If you're a small school district superintendent, you will not have to worry about being forced to consolidate with other districts. The House killed HB 1251, which would have forced smaller school districts to jointly employ a superintendent.

If you're a county or state mutual insurance company, you will still have to publish abstracts in your local paper. The House killed SB 2143, which would have slashed this requirement.

Tribal, state relations

If you're a tribal government, you now are eligible to participate in the Department of Water Resources' "Cost-Share" program. HB 1385 allows tribal governments to make contracts with the state water commission.

Also, if you're an enrolled member of a tribal nation, your family may benefit from legislation aimed to clarify rules of the federal Indian Child Welfare Act in state law.

If you're a librarian, you may want to check what materials you have within your library. HB 1205, which is waiting on a signature from the Governor, aims to prohibit content determined to be obscene from being available in children's sections in public libraries.

(continued on page 3)

Endnotes

DICKEY COUNTY LEADER

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Opera House Lunches to Begin April 28

Story & photo by Ken Smith

When spring arrives in Ellendale, a small group of volunteers arrive each Friday morning at the Opera House and start cooking. The little kitchen is affectionately named "Stu's Kitchen," after the late Stu Ruenz, a carpenter who worked tirelessly to get the Opera House lobby in shape for public use. Thanks to Stu's skill and hard work, and that of many other volunteers, the lobby was ready to host events related to Ellendale's 125th anniversary celebration in 2007.

Jeanette Robb, one of the volunteers who has worked at the Friday lunch since its inception, serves a customer. The Opera House kitchen is named after Jeanette's late husband, Stu Ruenz, who did much of the work restoring the Opera House lobby.

In the following years, the Opera House lobby has seen literally hundreds of events, including musical performances of nearly every sort, performed by everyone from talented local individuals, choruses and bands, to world class musicians. It has seen countless art displays and artist receptions. Art workshops involving individuals of all ages have been held. The hall has seen book fairs, poetry recitals, birthday parties, anniversary and wedding celebrations, cooking demonstrations, history lectures, community meetings on many topics, and much, much more.

All of this has been possible because of the steady work of volunteers and the generosity of donors and those who have attended Opera House events. Some funds come in big chunks, but the steady income from the Friday lunches is very important for the work of maintaining and restoring the building.

The small crew of workers who show up Friday after Friday to prepare and serve lunch are making a big contribution to the ongoing project. And the stream of folks who come in to buy a lunch are likewise showing their support, not just receiving a tasty meal.

In years past, the lunches were served from a small "food wagon" camper, parked next to Brandenburger Park. Last year, the lunches were moved indoors, which simplified things and gave diners a chance to sit down in a cool place and chat with friends.

This season's Friday lunches begin tomorrow. Everyone is welcome, and will be greeted with friendly faces. There's variety on the menu, so a la carte diners are welcome. The volunteers look forward to serving you.

Linda Whitney Art on Display in May

One of the advantages of having Friday lunch at the Opera House is being surrounded by gallery quality art that is hosted there regularly.

This month's children's art display will still be on display tomorrow for the opening lunch. For May, the exhibit will be a set of fine works by Linda Whitney.

Linda is professor emeritus of art at Valley City State University. She specializes in mezzotints, and works from her home.

Printmaking with Mezzotints, says Linda, is unlike any other type of art and she loves the method.

"Intaglio printmaking," she says, "especially mezzotints, have a wonderful surface quality that cannot be achieved by any other technique. I also love the intimate relationship a printmaker has with the plate and its development and the ink and the paper in the printing process."

According to Linda, these methods are becoming more widely used. "I have so many favorite printmakers but the young kids coming up are so exciting! They do things I would have never dreamed of when I was their age."

Linda will be coming to Ellendale on May 26 to do a presentation on her methods and the significance of her art. Meanwhile, we urge everyone to come down on any and every Friday between now and then to view this remarkable artwork.

Athletic Banquet Features Inspiring Speaker & Inspiring Young Athletes

Male athletes honored at the banquet (right to left): Aidan Thurber, Theo Thurber, Greg Fuher, Jack Bommersbach, Riley Thorpe, Cole Sayler, Mason Molan, Kade Schimke, Anton Geller, Isaiah Carruth, Ivan Carruth, and Jaeger Sand.

Female athletes honored at the banquet (right to left): Janessa Taylor, Audrey Fuher, Madeline Thorpe, McKenna Glynn, Shelby Miller, Kali Norton, Christena Walker, Olivia Hagen, Mackenzie Thorpe, Ariel Hagen, Mya Glynn, Riley Goehring, Ella Miller, and Macy Norton.

Next to warm breezes and the absence of snow, one of the fondest highlights of every spring in Ellendale is the annual Athletic banquets, sponsored by the Quarterback Club. This year's event invited a look back at the great accomplishments of 2022-23 as well as the last few years in EHS sports. Attendees were particularly privileged to have Ellendale native Rick Ulmer as the speaker and hear a few of his memories of his many years as a student, teacher and coach.

Rick has been around Cardinals sports for a long time. He started school at EPS in 1961 and graduated in 1974. He participated enthusiastically in basketball, football and track. In 1978 he started teaching, and coached girl's basketball, wrestling, boy's basketball, and track. Passing through the phases of life, he has been privileged to teach with his teachers and also teach with his former students.

It will be 50 years next year since Rick graduated. Looking back on all those years, he said, he has no regrets over how his life has gone. He is glad things turned out as they did. And, watching the changes over the years has been interesting. Thinking back on days gone by, he mentioned a number of things that have changed in relation to school athletics.

An obvious change is greatly improved facilities for basketball, football and track. The games are played somewhat differently. Among the changes he noted were that in basketball, there was no 3-point line, no alternating jump ball, and no dunking. And there were no weekday games.

During the 1960's, there was no girl's basketball program. Not until 1975 was the girl's team organized. There were no sports camps back then, no co-ops, and no long baggy shorts. There was no volleyball, and no open gyms.

In football, not so much has changed, although there is better equipment. And no, Rick stressed, he never played with a leather helmet. But he does remember playing 11-man football with just 22 out for the team.

In wrestling, the weight classes were different. With limited facilities, practices were held in some unusual places. Sometimes the team practiced in the multi-purpose room, sometimes on the stage in the gym. Sometimes they practiced on the TBC campus, sometimes at the ASCS building, and sometimes at the old gym in Monango.

But amid these changes, a lot of things have stayed the same. "The thrill of victory and the agony of defeat," he said, is just as real as it was then.

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Midwest Gas Prices Likely to be High This Summer

Dominik Dausch, *Sioux Falls Argus Leader*

Whether you're driving through the Midwest or anywhere in the continental U.S., you'll likely feel the summertime squeeze from buying gas. But based on federal estimates, prices won't look anything like last year.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration released its latest Short-Term Energy Outlook last Tuesday, which projected the nation's gasoline prices to average about $3.50 per gallon this summer and peaking between $3.60 and $3.70 per gallon in June.

Typically, gasoline is more expensive in the summer months, because refineries have to produce a season-appropriate blend that follows emission limits set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The rising and falling of gas prices in Midwestern states historically emulates national trends, but EIA data shows it's usually a dime or so cheaper to buy gas within the corn belt. Midwest fuel is about $3.58 per gallon as of Monday, about 12 cents cheaper than the current U.S. average. At about the same time last year, Midwest gas was about $3.95 per gallon.

Dominik Dausch is the agriculture and environment reporter for the *Argus Leader* and editor of *Farm Forum*.

Recycling Pick Up | Recycling Dumpster Pick up
Garbage Pick Up | Garbage Dumpster Pick Up

May

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
B		1	2	3	4	5	6
A	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
B	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
A	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
B	28	29	30	31			

ND Land Values Continue to Rise

A tour group organized by the North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition (NDGLC) toured the Brad Sand ranch in southwest Dickey County in August, 2019. The tour demonstrated the effectiveness of holistic management practices in restoring soil health and plant life. Regenerative agricultural practices do not necessarily produce maximum profits, but in the long run, advocates believe that they are adding a great deal of value to the ecosystem, and that in time, their methods will prove to be of great advantage in many ways, including monetary land values. *(photo by Ken Smith)*

by Emily Beal, Agweek

Both cropland and pastureland values went up in the state of North Dakota in the last year.

High production costs didn't stand in the way of a profitable year for farmers in 2022. High farm income was the driving force behind North Dakota cropland values sharply rising in 2023.

North Dakota State University Extension ag finance specialist Bryon Parman says the average value per acre in North Dakota for 2023 is $2,863. While farmers are battling input costs, cropland values going up will also be another additional expense, as Parman warns rent prices will be rising along with the value.

The current state average for cash rent on cropland is $79.90 per acre. "Rents are starting to go up considerably. And I think that's probably going to continue for the next few years. We're gonna see cash rent start catching up with the increases in land prices," he said.

The biggest increase in land values was in the east-central and southern Red River Valley regions, with both increasing over 20%, whereas the region that saw the smallest amount of value increase was southwestern North Dakota.

Pastureland values also increased in the state by 17.1% — the largest increase in pastureland in over a decade.

Pasture rent went up by 7.1% according to Parman. The southwestern part of the state saw the highest increase. One of the possibilities for pastureland values and rents rising along with it are high input prices. In an effort to cut down feed costs, some ranchers and cattle producers turned to renting out pastureland.

"Pastureland rents are low in terms of dollars per acre compared to cropland values, so a $1 or $2 per acre change in the data can have a significant impact on the percentage changes, such as the northwestern region, which went from $10 per acre to $12 per acre," Parman said in a news release. "Therefore, the percentage changes in rental rates should be viewed with caution. However, given the fact that pasture rents were up across the board and accompany a large increase in pastureland values, it is a justified conclusion that pasture land rents are increasing in North Dakota."

The highest pastureland rent was the southeastern region of the state, sitting at $34 an acre, while the least costly was in northwest North Dakota.

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Ruth Redlin Honored with New Stained Glass Window

by Tim Flakoll

Ruth Redlin was a long-time resident of Ellendale and noted in Ellendale and Forbes for leading choirs and teaching music, art and speech to K-12 students. Recently her legacy was honored with the production and installation of a stained-glass window custom made in her honor. The window was installed at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, where she served as choir director for many years.

The window was created by one of her former students, Tim Flakoll, who said, "Ruth was a remarkable, uplifting woman who had an extraordinary life and significant impact on countless people. She was a wonderful teacher and mentor who did so much to shape my life and the lives of so many others in Dickey County."

The window required a twelve-step process for design and completion. The medallion disc in the middle started as a flat, clear window glass, onto which multicolored figures and meaningful scenes are painted with finely ground colored glass pieces. These pieces are kiln fired at 1200 degrees so that the images actually fuse to the glass to become part of the surface. Sometimes multiple layers and firings are required to get the desired look.

While the windows are called "stained glass," they are actually not stained by the creator of the piece, but rather the stained-glass artist selects individual sheets of glass with the color and design they want for each part of the window. One of the great attributes of stained-glass windows is that the colors will be exactly the same intensity 300 years from now as they are today.

Flakoll, a Forbes native and son of Alden and Wilma Flakoll, had previously made and installed six other stained-glass windows in Bethlehem Lutheran located at 28 Lewis Street, in a sequence called, "The Life of Christ Series." The images depicted span from the birth of Christ to his ascension.

The feedback from those who attend or visit the church has been very positive, according to Flakoll. He said, "These windows help show important events in a way to supplement what is being talked about from the pulpit. It helps

set the tone for the service, giving people things to look at as they wait for the service to start. It gives the church a welcoming, warm atmosphere with added character."

Flakoll also created one piece for Aurdal Church in rural Forbes. Aurdal is a church that was originally founded in 1883 in Ellendale.

The windows are examples of niceties that add to the quality of place and that people can find when they go off the beaten path and into our communities in the area. These works are examples of how our communities are filled with many gems, and for a small community like Forbes, these windows are something unique

Evergreen Place Managers Grateful for Caring Residents and Staff

Benedictine Living

Two managers with ties to the community are happy to be working at Evergreen Place after growing up in the area. Benedictine Living Community-Ellendale would like to tell you more about these individuals and thank them for their dedication to our Assisted Living and Basic Care residents.

Kayce Deering and Miranda Sumption enjopy their word at Evergreen.

Kayce Deering, RN-BSN, currently serves as Housing Manager at Evergreen Place, starting in the position in February 2022. Previously, she was Clinical Manager at Evergreen Place.

Kayce has long-standing ties to Benedictine. In high school, she began working in the dietary department at Prince of Peace Care Center. She then worked there as a CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) and later as a nurse after graduating from Mount Marty College in Yankton, SD with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Following her time at Prince of Peace, she worked as an Emergency Department nurse and Labor and Delivery nurse at Avera St. Luke's Hospital in Aberdeen, SD, and as Clinical Nurse Coordinator for Avera Family Physicians.

Currently, her main responsibilities are managing Evergreen's day-to-day operations, overseeing nursing functions, scheduling and overseeing staff, bringing in new residents and assisting them with move-ins, helping residents with their care, and coordinating with residents' families and healthcare providers.

Kayce was born and raised in Ellendale. Her husband, Nick, is also from the Ellendale/Fullerton area. With their young son, Hank, they live on Kayce's great grandparent's farm just outside of Ellendale where they raise cattle. Her immediate family all reside in the Ellendale area, and her grandparents are also in the Ellendale and Fullerton areas. She has two brothers, four sisters, a nephew, and three nieces.

Ellendale has always been home to her, and she was happy to return following her time in Aberdeen. She enjoys being closer to her extended family and working again at Benedictine.

"I love the residents and their families at Evergreen. We have a great community here; this is truly their home. I also have great staff and am thankful for each and every one of them," stated Kayce.

"We have such thoughtful residents here who love the staff. I had one resident come to me with a poem she had written for a staff member. I assisted her in editing it and typing it up for her to give to the associate. She was so proud of it and the staff member loved receiving it. It's so great to see the connection everyone has here," she added.

She credits her time working at Prince of Peace Care Center in high school as a great stepping stone to her future career.

"Working at Prince of Peace in high school in both dietary and CNA roles gave me excellent, diverse, hands-on work experience before I had even graduated. I was able to 'try out' different positions and it helped me decide that nursing was a career I wanted to pursue," Kayce explained. "It was definitely an advantage when I applied to college, and I highly recommend current high school students look into the many opportunities available to them at Benedictine Ellendale, including part-time work, flexible schedules, and job shadowing."

In her free time, she enjoys spending time with friends and family, reading books, crocheting, camping, photography, and watching movies.

Miranda Sumption, LPN, began as Clinical Manager at Evergreen Place in February 2022.

Her responsibilities include scheduling appointments, following up with residents' questions, assessing health status and change in conditions, noting healthcare providers' orders, overseeing medications, and incorporating the nursing practice to enhance residents' overall health.

She grew up nearby on a farm east of Frederick, SD, which her family continues to run. She has three brothers and one sister, who is pursuing a degree in nursing as well.

Miranda attended Bismarck State College, where she received an Associate of Applied Science degree in Administrative Assistant – Medical Office. After graduating from BSC, she began working as a CNA at the nursing home at Ashley Medical Center. During this time, she obtained a CMA II (Certified Medication Assistant) certificate to gain more experience and help prepare her for nursing school. She later earned a Licensed Practical Nursing diploma from Lake Area Technical College in Watertown, SD.

Previously, she worked full time as an LPN at Ashley Medical Center and fills in there occasionally on weekends.

"I see Ellendale as my home. I appreciate the great staff members at Evergreen that are always willing to help out and work together. I also enjoy the interactions with our residents," Miranda said.

"One time a resident was having a hard day. She was sitting in my office and we were listening to music and talking. Another resident came in and offered to pray with her. We all prayed in my office together and went over applicable Bible verses. It was beautiful and something I will never forget," she recalled.

Miranda is currently pursuing a degree to become an RN. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with family and friends, reading, going for drives, working with animals, going to the lake, and playing with her dog.

"We are so fortunate to have such caring, well-educated, 'home grown' staff that have now returned and share a fondness not only for the Ellendale, Fullerton and Frederick communities, but for our residents as well," stated Naomi Grueneich, executive director of Benedictine Living Community-Ellendale.

"We are grateful to have them part of the Benedictine family, and thank them for their many contributions and commitment to ensuring the highest quality care for our residents."

Retirement

"Sad day for the USDA/FSA as our boss Daryl signs out after 31 years and 7 months of service. He'll definitely be missed, thank you for your service boss! "

"Thank you for your dedication Daryl!"

"Dickey County has been lucky to have you serving our county! Thank you for all of your years of service!"

"Congratulations! You are sure to enjoy the next phase!"

These were a few of the scores of congratulations offered to Daryl Monette upon his retirement as director of the local FSA office. As director, he oversaw the mission of the local office: to be "a single location where customers can access the services provided by the Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Rural Development agencies."

"A Small Part of My Heart Stayed in Ellendale and Remains There"

Former Resident Remembers Town's Friendship, Hospitality

Editor's Note: *Last week we ran part one of a short memoir of Ellendale written by Florence Gestrin. Florence is now 76 years old and lives in Albany, Oregon. In part one, she told about how she and her husband, Eric, and their two boys happened to come to Ellendale nearly 50 years ago. Then she related, with humor, about the family's difficult housing situation, starting out in rural Frederick and then finding a home surrounded with kind neighbors in Ellendale.*

Florence's wish, as shared in part one, is to "share about my perceptions and experiences and why and how I learned to love the people and many other things in and around Ellendale." Part two continues that goal.

Part Two: "Everyone Was a neighbor"

Eric had long ago begun working for Snyder Ford Garage as a mechanic. The proprietor did not get upset and in fact kindly encouraged him when he rented a little shop with Doug Muckey down by Railroad Avenue. There he did more mechanic work some evenings and on Saturday. We believed I should stay home with the children when they were little. That meant we had less money than some, but I had quality time with our children and time to make some of the best friends ever.

Jessie and Ernie Guedesse lived across the street. They immediately took over the role as surrogate grandparents. They did a wonderful job, and I will forever be grateful. Jessie did not drive, but she had a three-wheeled bike that she regularly rode to town to pick up mail, groceries and various things. Occasionally the boys and I took her to Aberdeen or for car rides in the country. That was great.

The town intrigued me. There was a men's clothing store. The name of the proprietor escapes me. But when I stepped into it, I felt like I had stepped into a television western program. There was an old fashioned cash register on a big long counter. As I remember, shirts were stacked in

This nostalgic illustration by Kevin Kendall brings back memories of two of Ellendale's most important businesses, both located in the Opera House Block. Florence had a particular fondness for the Randall family.

boxes behind the counter. There were lots of different things that seemed to be from a former era but I liked that store.

Across the street from that store was a meat market. I liked to go there for fresh meat. They had wonderful hamburger and I have never tasted bacon that was as good as the thick sliced bacon. They probably had other cuts of meat available but there was no way I could afford any other meat at that time.

Back across the street was Randall's Grocery Store. I will always have a soft spot in my heart for Mr. Randall. At one point our youngest son became ill and was in the hospital in Aberdeen. We did not have extra gas for Eric to come sit with me as I sat there for three days, hoping and praying we would not lose our little boy. I have no idea how Mr. Randall found out how difficult things were. I know neither Eric nor I told him. What I do know is he contacted us and said he thought things were a bit rough for us right now and we could charge groceries between paydays any time we needed to. I was so relieved. Although we tried hard not to take advantage, there were times when we took him up on his very generous offer.

I was struck by the awareness that just would not have happened in the Oregon community we came from. Next to Randall's was the Nodak Restaurant and Hotel. The bank sat on the corner on the other side of the highway. Next to it was Anthony's Store. It had different and interesting things.

Near that was Fran's Bakery, where I eventually worked. They had wonderful donuts and pastries. I remember the first time I took our little boys there and asked for a maple bar. They looked confused and said they had never heard of maple bars. I could not understand as I saw them plain as day in the pastry case. I learned they are called long johns in North Dakota.

That was not the only thing that was similar but different. When there were social get-togethers we were asked to take bars. I had never heard of bars. In Oregon we were asked to take cookies. In North Dakota I bought Hellman's Mayonnaise. In Oregon the same exact mayonnaise is called Best Foods. In North Dakota the coffee was called Butternut. In Oregon the same coffee was called Folger's. The list went on and on.

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Starion Donates to EPS Backpack Drive

The backpack program provides child-friendly nutritious food to school children in need over weekend and holiday breaks.

On behalf of Starion Bank, Aaron Tschosik presents a check to Valerie Jordan, director of the Backpack program, and Allison Radermacher, Elementary Principal, and Cindy Rall, High School principal.

That's the mission statement for a program that has been in progress for quite some time at the Ellendale Public School. Valerie Jordan, who directs the program, was thrilled last week to receive a generous $2,500 check from Starion Bank to help fund the program.

Aaron Tschosick, president of Starion's Ellendale branch, passed along a statement from the Larson family, founders of the chain, explaining their giving philosophy. "One of the Larson Family Ownership Group's missions is to provide public service, giving to worthwhile civic projects, and committing to the communities Starion Bank services. By this, we challenge ourselves to help others, contribute to the greater good, work to improve people's lives and communities.

Starion Chairman Craig Larson sent a special note of appreciation to the backpack program: "The Larson Family and Starion Bank are honored to be able to support worthy projects like yours and pray this donation helps those students suffering from food insecurities in our community."

Valerie indicated that the backpack program would appreciate further donations, as the goal is to continually replenish supplies. Her flyer asks others to *"Lend a hand to the kids in our community by donating on or more of the following items to support the food backpack program in our schools: Cereal/Granola Bars, oatmeal packets, fruit strips, juice boxes, mac and cheese, crackers, canned soup, 100% fruit cups, applesauce, canned vegetables, peanut butter, individual cereal boxes, jam/jelly."* Drop off donations at your local church or the school office. Valerie will be happy to answer questions and give more information and can be contacted at **valerie.jordan@k12.nd.us**

K of C Free Throw Contestants

Alex Lematta, Max Lematta, Micah Girard, Eli Wagner, Samuel Reis, Carly Kuntz, Kendra Barton and McCoy Glynn participated in last week's Knights of Columbus Free Throw competition. All but two of these competitors made it to the second round of competition. Looking back to 2019, we see that two of the Cardinals' present top scorers, Riley Thorpe and Levi Reis, are both previous state champions in the Knights of Columbus free throw competition. We expect to see Ellendale shooters well represented at the upcoming K of C state tournament.

O.P.E.R.A. "All-In, All-School Fund Drive" Exceeds Goal

O.P.E.R.A. **--** Thanks to a flurry of year-end donations, the Ellendale Opera House "All-In, All-School Fund Drive" exceeded its goal, raising more than $84,000 – $14,000 more than the fund drive goal – for restoration work on the historic Main Street landmark.

The fund drive this year provided a dollar-for-dollar match for contributions from existing donors up to a total of $20,000, and a two-for-one match for contributions from new donors up to a total of $10,000.

During the final two months of the fund drive, anonymous supporters expanded the double-match incentive to apply to any contributions from new or existing donors.

A total of $44,532 was donated by new and existing donors. With the matching funds, the Ellendale Opera House will receive a total of $84,532 for the ongoing building renovation work. Because of the success of fund drives in recent years, the opera house has been able to make significant investments to bring the 114-year-old building back to full use by the community. Those improvements include:

• During 2019-2020, the west half of the north wall was rebuilt with the help of a $150,000 loan and $50,000 grant from U.S.D.A. Rural Development.

• During 2021, a new ADA-compliant rear entrance and parking area were completed with the help of a $10,000 matching grant from North Dakota Tourism. The building gutters and downspouts were rebuilt last year to provide better drainage of rainfall runoff.

• A comprehensive electrical upgrade planned for 2022 was delayed by supply chain issues affecting delivery of needed electrical equipment. The $60,000 project is now scheduled for completion this year.

(continued on page 3)

2022 in Review: October to December

October 2022 • The Veterans Club and Events Center was closed in from the weather, and work proceeded inside. On October 15 there was a Legion Community Day Open House, in which everyone was invited to tour the building and see the progress. • Folk Troubadours Kerry Grombacher and Aspen Black performed at the Opera House October 13, drawing an appreciative audience • A *Leader* article profiled a new Main Street business, *Imginit,* next to Starion Bank. "Browsing around the displays, one sees an impressive variety of custom-made items. Earrings made of wood, leather or acrylic, in all colors and shapes; engraved wooden cutting boards and spatulas for display, and wall hangings of nearly every shape and size and color combination. There are stocking caps and duckbill hats with custom engraved leather patches. There are dish towels, pillows and tee shirts with custom graphics. There are engraved bracelets of silicon and other materials; bracelets and pet collars with unique designs." • *The Leader* profiled the new owner of True Value Hardware, Justin Meidinger. Justin explained some of the reasons for moving back to his hometown of Ellendale after achieving major career goals in big cities. “I feel there’s more opportunities to have impact in smaller communities,” he said. He was referring to the arts, with which he is heavily involved, but it could just as well refer to engaging in a business such as contracting or running a store. • The Evergreen pie auction—an annual tradition pioneered by Lucy Greuneich some 20 years ago, raised about $5,500 to help improve the backyard patio where numerous events are held in warm weather (including the pie auction). • The Ellendale Police Department go a brand new cruiser, with assistance from a USDA grant that paid 75% of the cost! • Ellendale’s Trunk or Treat Halloween Street Party was a great success, with temperatures in the mid 60's and excellent community spirit. Officially, “254 kiddos” were in attendance and 26 cars were decorated. The number did not include all the adults present, or their pets, or goblins that may have attended.

Veterans Club & Events Center, Sept. 22

Veterans Club & Events Center, Sept. 28

November • “Blaze on West Main Consumes Calico Cat” (November 8) — The good news came early: no rescue was required, and no one was injured. Daniel and Crystal Preus and their four children, who made their home in the large upper floor apartment, lost several pets, but were thankful, along with the whole community, for the preservation of life and health. The bad news was that the Calico Cat, Marilyn Burow's ceramics studio, was entirely destroyed. The Calico Cat has operated at this location since 1996, and its loss is a major blow not only to the owner but to its many patrons. • “Decades of Waste Concrete Are Being Reduced to Aggregate at City Disposal Site.” Kids who like sandbox equipment might have enjoyed seeing the work going on at the old dump on the southwest edge of town, where about 30,000 tons of concrete were crushed and turned into piles of gravel. • Construction moved quickly on the Applied Digital Processing Center west of town. The facility will be about twice the size of the company's Jamestown facility. It will consume "almost 200 megawatts," said Nick, "about as much as all of Fargo, maybe more." Excess wind power will provide most of the current. The facility is slated to be in operation by next spring. • The 2022 election in Dickey County went off with hardly a glitch • The Hydro-Klean Company began sewer refurbishment work in July, and for nearly every week since, the company's trucks have been seen on intersections around the town. At the end of November, Hydro-Klean workers were rehabilitating the line on Railroad Avenue that runs between the intersection next to the FSA office and the intersection between Mertz Lumber and the Opera House. The crews will be coming back in the spring to complete the huge job. • On November 15 a County Commissioner’s meeting drew a big crowd, and had to be held in the courtroom. Four representatives of the Summit Carbon Solutions Company argued that their pipeline project, which is planned to cut through part of Dickey County, is safe and beneficial. A number of residents of Dickey County and a few from neighboring counties in South Dakota expressed opposition, taking issue with one or both claims.

The flag was still there: Firefighters worked all day on Nov. 8 and part of Nov. 9 to protect nearby structures, and the community stepped up to help--see tribute below from grateful residents who lost their building.

Words Cannot Express . . .

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to the Ellendale and Oakes Fire Departments, Dickey County Emergency Management Services, Ellendale Police Department, and Dickey County Sheriff’s Office for their quick and skillful response to the fire at Calico Cat on November 8. Your tireless effort to combat and contain the fire cannot be praised enough. We deeply appreciate all of you and the hours upon hours you spent to protect us and our community.

We would also like to give a special thanks to Kayleen Rithmiller and Z’s Fresh Market for immediately gathering food and drinks to sustain the emergency responders while they worked to fight the fire.

To all of the Ellendale and surrounding community, who showed overwhelming compassion and mercy toward us during the tragedy that befell Calico Cat and the residence above, your love has been overwhelming! Your attention to our physical, mental, and spiritual needs both during and following are deeply appreciated and will never be forgotten. To all those who have encouraged and offered to help rebuild and reopen Calico Cat, we give our sincere thanks. Your prayers and support have been extremely comforting and encouraging as we have gone through this suffering and as we move toward rebuilding our lives and businesses.

And for the generosity of the businesses and individuals who provided meals, set up accounts, and organized drives and fund raisers for all three families affected by this disaster, your compassion has been a great comfort and help to us all in this time of need.

We would especially like to express our gratitude to OLS – (Orwig Family, Katie Rongen, and Megan Wiebe) for coordinating a community response to our needs and acquiring the items we needed most immediately. Also, a special thanks to Justin and Jamie for providing us with immediate temporary shelter. Last, but not least, thank you to Paul and Bethany Preus for dropping everything to comfort us with hugs, prayers, hymns, God’s Word, and a safe place for the children on the day of and addressing the many needs as they arose in the early days following the fire.

We give thanks to God for you, and you will always be in our prayers. The suffering we have borne has been surpassed by the comfort we have received from you by your kindness and generosity. God bless you all for loving your neighbors in their time of need.

Forever grateful,

Marilyn Burow and the Daniel Preus Family

December *(we omit snow pictures since we've seen enough already).* • Santa and his friends, including the Grinch, the Elf and Frosty the Snowman, made their appearance on Main Street on December 4, proving that the Christmas spirit is alive and well in Ellendale. A parade of lights followed, with much enthusiasm and much candy. • The talented performers of the Medora Musical once again blessed Ellendale with a Christmas performance, this time featuring new talent in the realm of magic tricks and bluegrass music. About 300 people attended. • After the big November 8 fire on West Main that destroyed the Calico Cat ceramics shop, the Laundry Room was cleaned up and open for business. The walls have new paint, the ceiling has new tiles and new lighting, and things have been scrubbed and deodorized with an ozone machine. There is some work to do with trim and baseboard, but overall the interior is in good shape. Owners Ken and Robin Smith are grateful for the encouragement and support from the community, as they are determined that Ellendale should have a laundromat. • City workers cleared the streets in the early morning of Wednesday, December 7, after nearly four inches of fluffy white snow fell in the Ellendale area. • Men and machinery are on the move at the new data processing center west of Ellendale--progress is reportedly ahead of schedule on the massive construction project. • Stern *no travel* warnings were issued across most of the state, as the North Dakota travel map turned into a big red rectangle. The snow came in on-again, off-again waves, at times luring observers into the thought that the storm might be about over. But no. By Thursday evening, when the winds started whipping up the freshly deposited snow, and even more came down, it was clear that this would be one of those very rare weeks when school would meet only one day. Most public offices, including the post office, were closed, as were most businesses. • Hunter Pinke, a native of Wishek and a survivor of a skiing accident that left him unable to walk, spoke to an attentive public school audience shortly before Christmas break. Hunter’s message was one of strength and encouragement, as he reminded his listeners that life is worth living and that no matter what happens, we can choose to overcome it. Despite his challenges, Hunter says he has not had a single ‘bad” day since his accident. *“Tough days, yes,"* he said, "*bad days, no.”*

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Sewer Repair Goes on as Chilly Weather Sets in

Don't worry, that's steam, not smoke! After the recent fire, folks driving by might have done ad double take upon seeing the plume on the intersection on West Main and Railroad Avenue last week. But it's all part of the process of pumping steam to harden the new sewer pipe liners so the system will be able to deliver many more decades of service. Hydro Klean crews have been inserting and steaming liners for several months, but when the weather is chilly, the steam is much more noticeable.

The Hydro-Klean Company began sewer refurbishment work in July, and for nearly every week since, the company's trucks have been seen on intersections around the town. Last week Hydro Klean workers were rehabilitating the line on Railroad Avenue that runs between the intersection next to the FSA office and the intersection between Mertz Lumber and the Opera House. According to City Auditor Candice Middlestead, it is likely that the crews will have to return in the spring to complete the huge job.

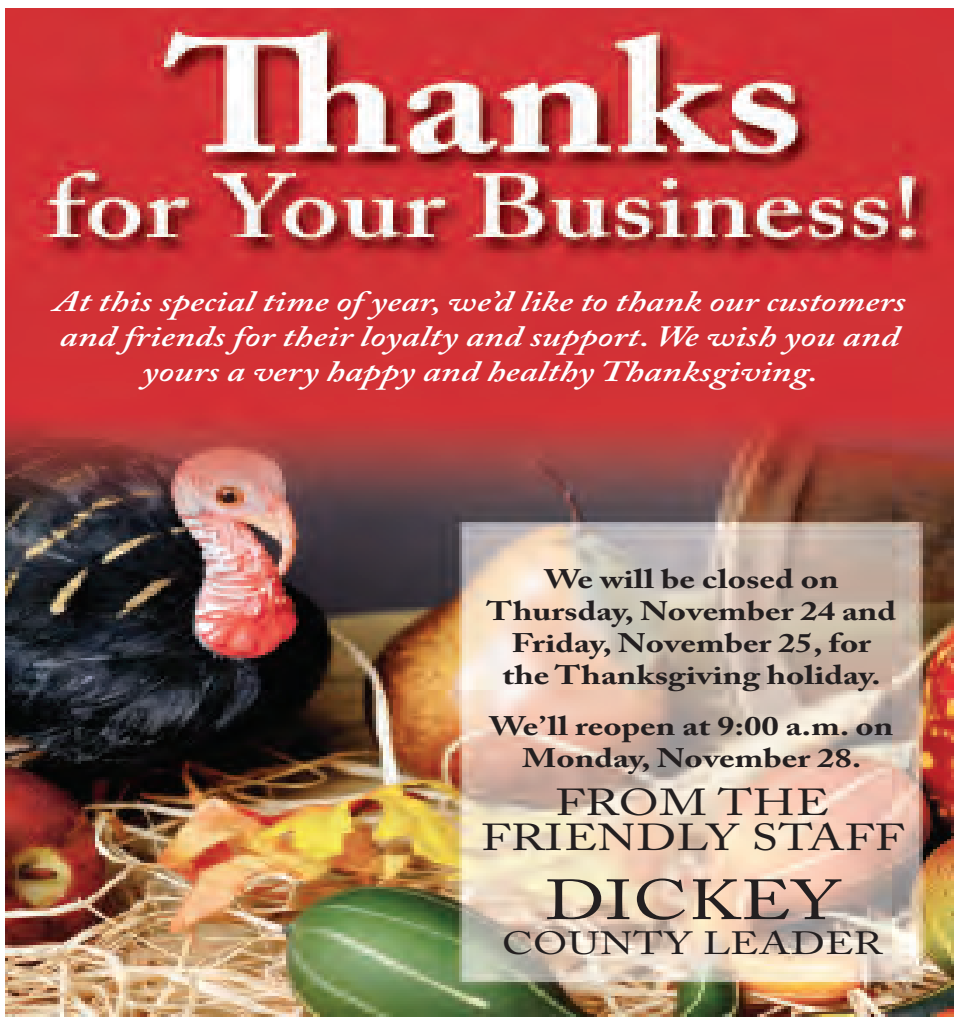
All Contributions to Opera House Fund Drive Will be Double-Matched

O.P.E.R.A.--Make a donation to O.P.E.R.A.'s fund drive before the end of the year and your contribution will be double-matched by Ellendale Opera House supporters.

The "All-In, All-School Fund Drive" ends Dec. 31, and to further encourage contributions, anonymous supporters will now provide a double-match for all donations made by year's end, up to a maximum of $10,000.

(rest of story on p. 10)

Two years ago, a major step was taken when the back wall of the Opera House was replaced. Completion was in the middle of December (photo by Ken Smith).


Thanks
for Your Business!
At this special time of year, we'd like to thank our customers and friends for their loyalty and support. We wish you and yours a very happy and healthy Thanksgiving.
We will be closed on Thursday, November 24 and Friday, November 25, for the Thanksgiving holiday.
We'll reopen at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, November 28.
FROM THE FRIENDLY STAFF
DICKEY COUNTY LEADER

Giving Thanks & Looking to Future After Main Street's Worst Fire in Years

Story & Photos by Ken Smith

As the memories of the smoke and flames that erupted on West Main Street on November 8 (election day) are still fresh in the minds of witnesses, the family that lost their apartment and the owners of the affected businesses are thankful for the quick, generous response from the community, and are looking to the future.

"I don't think you would have gotten that kind of response in a big city," observed one of the officials who was inspecting the damage a few days after the fire. Immediately after the first responders arrived, Kayleen Rithmiller, manager at Z's Fresh Market, sprang into action, sending food and drinks to Main Street for the firefighters, and comforting the family displaced by the fire. Z's furnished over $500.00 worth of goods immediately, and also set up a fund to provide ongoing help.

Many others stepped forward as well, including OLS, which also became a drop off point for cash donations for those affected by the fire. Clothing and basic supplies came in quickly. Last week, the Chamber of Commerce organized a benefit supper (which was held at the Granary on Nov. 21) with all the proceeds going to the Daniel & Crystal Preus family, who lost all the possessions that were housed in the apartment above the Calico Cat.

The sacrifice of the fire fighters also should be noted. "I only got a few hours of sleep that night," said Eric Fuher, who wrote up the local departmental report on the blaze. The report notes that firemen were called back to the scene a total of four times, as there was a hot spot inside the collapsed building that water could not reach. Finally, by late morning the next day, everything was stable.

Marilyn Burow feels deeply the loss of her ceramics shop, which has served the community at the West Main location since 1996. The same is true of her patrons, many of whom spent numerous hours there doing creative work.

Marilyn said that she is eager to get back into business, and would like to be back on Main Street with a storefront. "I didn't enjoy spending these last few days at home," she told the *Leader*. "I like to be at work, I'm just that kind of person."

The Calico Cat was insured by Starion, and Marylin said that her local agent, Dustin Maier, who handles business in Oakes and Ellendale, has been very helpful. Thanks to the coverage, her the concerns she expressed were more in finding replacements for the contents of her shop, and less about paying for them.

Marilyn had a great deal of equipment in her shop, and a large quantity of molds for pouring her figures. Some of them were made by companies that are no longer in business. She had everything from birds and animals and nature scenes to santas and saints and much more. Some of these molds, she said, will be salvageable, despite surface damage from smoke and dirty water. Most of them, she said, were stored upside down, so she thinks those should be fine.

(continued on page 3)

Update on Medora Christmas Musical Coming to Ellendale Dec. 3 at 4:00 pm

Medora, North Dakota-- Christmas Memories is the name of this year's travelling Medora-themed Christmas tour, which will play in 20 different communities including a Dec. 3 performance in Ellendale.

The family-oriented travelling holiday show features past and present performers from the acclaimed Medora Musical. A featured act, The Waddington Brothers, has been added to this year's program.

Now in its sixth year, the show has sold out at venues across the Dakotas and Minnesota. The Ellendale show will be at 4 p.m. Dec. 3 at Trinity Bible College.

"It's a wholesome, family-friendly show that really puts people in a celebratory holiday mood," said Producer Bill Sorenson, himself a longtime Medora performer.

"Once we perform in a community they want us to keep coming back year after year." The show will celebrate both the sacred and secular traditions of America's most beloved holiday.

A new twist this year is the featured act, The Waddington Brothers, four brothers from southwestern North Dakota who have been performing together since 2004. They have built a national reputation as a versatile acoustic group with a musical style that ranges from hard driving bluegrass to mellow and dynamic western harmonies.

The oldest Waddington brother, Seth, is the leader of the quartet. He started playing guitar at age 10 under the tutelage of his father. Ethan first picked up the five-string banjo at age 11, and was 18 he took second place in the National Bluegrass Banjo championships.

He also plays the upright bass. Jacob has played the Mandolin

Emily Walter, Medora's "Queen of the West" will be appearing with the troupe. A multitalented singer and instrumentalist, she performed with her acoustic guitar at the 2018 Ellendale performance *(photo by Ken Smith).*

since he was 12, and also plays the four-string tenor guitar. At 17, Job is the youngest Waddington, and specializes in playing the upright bass and the chromatic harmonica.

(continued on page 11)

For Some, The Mail Does not Come Through

Staffing Shortages, Reforms, Delivery Inefficiencies to Blame

By Michael Standaert -- North Dakota News Cooperative

Recent worker shortages and the increased workload of processing large packages have complicated the work of mail carriers who have long deftly overcome the obstacles of snow, rain, heat and the gloom of night to get mail to its destination on time.

Here in North Dakota, the outer edges of cities like Minot, Bismarck, Williston and other areas have experienced severe delays in mail deliveries recently, with citizens not seeing anything arriving in their mailboxes for days, and even weeks, at a time.

For Howard Tweeten, who lives about four miles north of Bismarck, the past three weeks have been a period of sporadic delivery. This has delayed bills for Tweeten, who had one come eight days after it was mailed from Bismarck, slower than if it was walked out to his home.

"It's been kind of a hit or miss type of thing," Tweeten said. "One neighbor was told we'll be lucky if we get mail every other day or every third day."

The rapid rise in the numbers of packages that mail carriers are tasked with processing and hauling, a rise stemming from the e-commerce boom in the past decade, now competes with the delivery of first class and bulk mail.

Labor shortages, spurred by retirements and heavy competition with other employers for workers, have undercut hiring campaigns for the U.S. Postal Service (USPS), further straining the system.

"I talked to one person at the post office and they just keep saying they don't have the bodies to do this, that they're trying to hire people," Tweeten said. "It's really ridiculous."

Jeff Eslinger, assistant director of the North Dakota Association of Counties, said the contract driver who delivered mail in his neighborhood north of Bismarck recently retired and the postal service has had difficulty finding a replacement.

"So now, we can go several days without service, then one day I'll see a USPS truck delivering standard mail, and another with packages, sometimes on the same day," he said.

In Minot, the situation has been even worse with widespread disruptions reported.

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Local Ties Runs Deep at Benedictine Ellendale

Taylar Hack (left) and Naomi Grueneich (right)

Submitted by Benedictine

Benedictine Living Community-Ellendale has served as a senior care center for more than 60 years. During that time, it has cultivated a number of staff members who have gone on to dedicate their lives to long-term care and whose ties to the community remain strong.

Taylar Hack may have graduated from Ellendale High School 12 years ago but he starts his days still recalling his time there. "I think of my high school FACS teacher, Cindy Klapperich, every morning as I iron my shirt and pants," he says with a smile.

Hack is an executive with nonprofit healthcare organization Benedictine, which offers care and living options to older adults and seniors in five states in the Midwest, including North Dakota. Hack, an Ellendale native, was promoted to regional Operations Vice President in July 2022, the youngest person to serve the company in that position.

Hack's connection to Ellendale runs deep. He was born and raised in Ellendale to parents Rick and Vicki Hack, who still reside there. His mom was born and raised in Ellendale. She is currently a physician's assistant for Sanford Health in Ellendale and often provides care for Benedictine's residents. His dad taught school and coached many sports in Ellendale for more than 30 years before his retirement. His maternal grandparents both lived in Ellendale, with his grandfather running the Texaco gas station for years. Hack's brother Brennan, his wife Tara, and their two children live outside of Ellendale. Brennan teaches and coaches at Ellendale High School. Tara is a physician for Sanford in Ellendale/Oakes and also serves as medical director for Benedictine Ellendale. His sister KaLee is a teacher in Fargo.

Hack was active in football, basketball and golf in high school before heading to Valley City State University where he received a degree in social/political science.

Hack first started with Benedictine in 2014 as housing manager at Evergreen Place and Assisted Living in Ellendale, working for Tony Hanson. Hanson was the administrator at Prince of Peace Care Center, now called Benedictine Living Community-Ellendale, for 23 years and is a long-time advocate for long-term care in the state.

Continued on page 3

Kerry Grombacher & Aspen Black Performed at Opera House

Award-winning songwriters Kerry Grombacher and Aspen Black returned to Ellendale last Thursday and performed their "Songs & Stories of the American West". Concert was held at the Historic Opera House Lobby and Gallery. It was an an evening of contemporary folk and western music. This was the duo's first concert in North Dakota together. They are both multi-instrumentalists, and their works tell fascinating stories that they accompany with guitars, bass, and mandolin. The duo was looking forward to performing in Ellendale and the audience thoroughly enjoyed the concert.

(Photos by Ken Schmierer)

Evergreen Pie Auction

Evergreen's annual pie auction was held Sunday, October 2 in the shady area in the back of the building. It was a lively time, with lots of competition between bidders. Tim Smith (auctioneer) was joined by Miranda Sumption (seated) and Kayce Deering (holding pie) as the event commenced. The top selling pie--made by Alicia Glynn, was purchased for $255 by LeMar Kinzler. The auction brought in around $5500 which will be used towards new patio furniture and shading out back as the residents enjoy being outside so much.

Martial Arts Academy sponsored Kick-Off for Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Ellendale Martial Arts Academy recently hosted an event on October 1st in collaboration with Sharron Brady, Dicrector of Kedish House, Chief Brad Knutson from the Ellendale Police Dept. and Kim Wyer, representative of Damsels in Defense. This educational event was to kick off Domestic Violence Awareness Month and to raise money for the Kedish House through local sponsorships of martial arts student participating in a kick-a-thon.

Sharron spoke about the services the Kedish House provides to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Chief Knutson talked about laws regarding domestic abuse. Kim Weyer showed some self-defense techniques before the event concluded with the hick-a-thon. As part of Domestic Violence Awareness Monthself-defense classes are being taught at Ellendale Martial Arts to those registered on or before October 1st, with all proceeds being donated to the Kedish House. The sponsors and all who were involved in making this community and regional event a success are greatly appreciated. ***Pictured Charlene Blondo, Reed Dinger, John Blondo, Ceoyne Holt. Alexa Schmierer, Dan Blondo, Evoleht Holt, Janne Holt, Sharron Brady and Taylor Tiegs***

Middle School Students Were Science Guests

September brought some special guest speakers to the science classes at school. Pictured to the left the 6th graders were treated to an early Eco-Ed Day Camp hosted by James River Soil Conservation District. They did a great job teaching everyone about soils, woodlands, prairie/range lands, wetlands and watersheds/water quality.

The day camp capped off with a presentation on reptiles by guest speaker James Gerhholdt of "The Remarkable Reptiles". His presentation was full of a variety of live reptiles with the highlight always the opportunity to pet very large snakes.

The 7th graders enjoyed a 2-day lesson by Breanna Kiser of the NDSU Extension Office. Day 1 was in the classroom with a focus on types of pollinations. Students leaned that bees are not the only insect that pollinate plants. Day 2 was held in the Buzz Gardens and Breanna was joined by Master Gardener Ginger Peterson. Students did a scavenger hunt for different plants in the pollinator garden and why the variety is needed dfor the pollinators. The class ended with each student receiving a packet of native plant seeds so they can create their own pollinator garden.

The school and students thank all those who made the two days a fun, learning experience.

(School Photo)

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Kaylin Slivoskey is State Champion
Levi Reis is State Champion

Congratulations to Kaylin Slivoskey and Levi Reis, the newest Ellendale State Champions! Kaylin, a sophomore at EHS, took 1st place in the High Jump with a 5'2" jump. Levi, a junior at EHS took 1st place in the javelin with a throw measuring 179'1". Pictured above is Kaylin clearing the bar and below is Levi with his javelin throw. Kaylin is the daughter of Erik and Estalita Slivoskey and Levi is the son of Richard and Nicole Reis. Kaylin and Levi join Anton Carruth (wrestling champion) as EHS 2022 STATE CHAMPIONS! See page 10 for more photos. ***(Submitted photos)***

Z's Fresh Market Making Changes

Story & Photo by Ken Smith

"We just want to make sure people know we're updating. We're moving things around, upgrading the fresh fruits and vegetable section, and more. And we want to make sure that people know that Z's is going to stay the hometown, friendly store."

Kayleen Rithmiller, the new manager at Z's Fresh Market, was full of enthusiasm last Tuesday after the long Memorial Day weekend, a time of year when items for cookouts and picnics typically see a spike in demand. Store owner Cory Zacher was there to introduce Kayleen, and highlight the fact that the store is in good hands with the new manager.

Kayleen pointed to the most obvious upgrade, the improved fruits and vegetables section on the west side of the store. The section has a new look, and offers better variety in terms of both items and price ranges. "We want to make sure its whole and fresh," Cory said of the fruits and vegetables section, in a reminder of why the store has the name it does.

Z's is also expanding its reach into the community. Starting in June, every week on Tuesday will be senior discount day. Kayleen expects those days to be busy, as they will give older customers a little extra reason to schedule a shopping trip, and the bus can bring them as well. Z's will also be donating to the food pantry every week, providing welcome resources to this much used community service.

Kayleen also stressed that Z's is a full-service grocery store, and they are happy to put in special orders, which can come in handy for reunions, picnics and other special events.

When Ellendale's grocery store became Z's Fresh Market on August 1, 2019, owner Cory Zacher emphasized growth. “We're not cutting back, we're expanding,” he said. Nearly three years later, that basic idea is still guiding the store.

Readers of the *Dickey County Leader* are reminded also that each week a Z's flyer insert lets them know about the week's specials. Cory said the flyer has been much appreciated by customers.

Another reminder: by shopping locally in town, instead of driving south of the border, customers save the expense of sales tax on food items. That in itself is a good reason to "stop in and say hi" and get to know Kayleen and the staff, and see what's new at Z's.

Superintendent Kaiser Shares Parting Words

Editor's Note: When Michael Kaiser announced he had accepted a position as superintendent of the Wahpeton schools, we were interested in getting his observations about his work here over the past four years, and various aspects of the Ellendale Public School. We sent him a set of questions, and he has graciously responded. We join the people of Ellendale in wishing him and his family the best in their new location, and the most success in his new position. Replacing Michael as superintendent will be Chip Sundberg.

• How did you end up coming to Ellendale in the first place?

I was serving as the High School Principal in Grafton, ND when I heard about the Superintendent opening in Ellendale. Coming back to the area was something that always interested me because I graduated from Ellendale and have roots in the area. I didn’t know if I was ready to become a School Superintendent, but was encouraged to apply by friends and family.

• What were some of the challenges that you saw in front of you when you entered your position at Ellendale?

Before I started, a Community Behavioral Health Task Force was assembled in the spring of 2018. The work of this group confirmed a lack of services and the need for resources to address social and mental health concerns within our school and community. So, when I started in the summer of 2018, one of the first challenges I saw was to address increasing mental health needs.

Another challenge I saw right away was declining enrollment and school funding. In the state of North Dakota, public school funding is closely tied to student enrollment. Fewer students results in less revenue to operate a school. Like most rural areas in this part of the state, Ellendale School has been experiencing declining enrollment and is feeling the side effects.

• What do you consider the two or three (or more) biggest milestones or markers of progress that you saw happen during your time at Ellendale?

Three of my four years at Ellendale Public School have been defined by the COVID-19 pandemic. During the 2019-20 school year we faced the unknown of a statewide school closure and distance learning. Despite reopening for the 2020-21 school year, we struggled with student absenteeism and staffing shortages due to illness and quarantine. This school year (2021-22) we have seen students and educators continue to struggle with mental health challenges and learning loss. Nevertheless, the Ellendale School has shown resilience, success, and joy in the face of the pandemic. I am proud of the fact that we kept school open to in-person learning for the past two years. I am proud of our staff and subs for stepping up and keeping operations running smoothly. I am proud of our students for their resiliency in this time of uncertainly. I am thankful for the support of our community and their trust in the school.

Despite COVID-19 and the challenges it posed we have made gains in many areas such as:

• Updated school mission statement, vision, and strategic plan. The 2020-2025 Strategic Plan contains goals around academic engagement, staff professional development, school culture, and resource management. ***(continued on page 3)***

“The Wild Women of Winedale" to be Presented at the Opera House, June 10, 11 & 12

The play “The Wild Women of Winedale” will have performances at the Opera House June 10, 11 and 12. This comedy focuses on three women at crossroads in their lives – the Wild sisters of Winedale, Virginia – Fanny (Becky Tatum) and Willa (Val Wagner) and their sister-in-law Johnnie Faye (Colette Middlestead).

With equal doses of hilarity and heart, these extraordinary women come up with delightful and surprisingly unorthodox ways to clear the clutter from their lives, their homes and their relationships so they can move their lives forward. Together they prove it's never too late to take another one of life's paths for a grand new adventure.

Other cast members include Candy Middlestead, Alura Johnson, Deb Elhard, Cyd Meidinger, and Robin Smith.

The Friday, June 10 and Saturday, June 11 performances will be at 7:00 pm with a 3:00 pm matinee on Sunday, June 12. Tickets are $12 for adults and $6 for age 18 and under. All tickets are general admission and will be sold at the door.

“The Wild Women of Winedale” is written by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope, and Jamie Wooten and is being produce by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

Rehearsal Scene

Congressman Kelly Armstrong Makes Brief Ellendale Visit

Story & Photo by Ken Smith

"Caught up with some North Dakotans at the Fireside Family Restaurant in Ellendale this morning. There were a lot of Ellendale Legion Baseball fans, and I wish the team well in the up-coming season."

--Representative Kelly Armstrong on Twitter, June 1.

Since it is a state with a relatively small population, North Dakota has only one Representative in the US Congress. On the positive side, our representative, Kelly Armstrong, has made it a point to visit small towns around the state when possible. On September 1, 2020, he stopped by Ellendale and met with a few locals to chat about issues of importance to them. The meeting was at South Park, since at that time COVID-19 precautions made it unwise to hold an indoor meeting. As one might expect, a lot of the talk in 2020 related to the pandemic.

When Rep. Armstrong stopped for another Ellendale visit last week, the discussion was a bit different. He was on the second day of a whirlwind visit that also took him to Linton, Wishek, Kulm, Oakes, Carrington, Spiritwood and a few other small towns. After some small talk with the regulars who were at the Fireside for morning coffee, he opined on several matters.

Asked what concerns he is presently hearing from North Dakotans, Armstrong said that "getting crops in the ground" after a rainy spell was the thing that came up most. The other big thing was local infrastructure projects, such as the sewer project that is about to be done in Ellendale. Of course, he acknowledged, government can't fix the weather. But, he suggested, lifting federal restrictions on the energy sector would do a lot to ease the inflation that's affecting people in all walks of life, including farmers.

(continued on page 4)

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Benedictine Residents Enjoy Finishing New Mural

"I'm drawing an 8 foot mural for the Benedictine Living Center. It's first pencil and then black sharpie or paint outline. The idea is that this is a large 'coloring page' to be colored in with crayon or marker at their leisure."

Jamie Eberle, one of our area's most active artists, enjoys projects involving people of all ages. Jamie's Kids Art program provides regular creative projects for youngsters (especially in the summertime, when she holds sessions on Saturday mornings) and she works with adult arts as well. And she also assists with Art for Life, an Ellendale Area Arts Council program that enriches life in local residence homes. A major focus of Art for Life is involving residents in hands-on activities, which hasn't been easy over the past two years, given the COVID situation.

The giant mural was a simple idea that fit the need perfectly. "They really enjoyed coloring it," said Courtney Christianson, activities director at Benedictine. It is now hanging in the west wing of the main hall. Whether strolling or rolling the halls of the building, residents and visitors are cheered by this and numerous other art works on display, many of which originated as Art for Life projects.

After finishing this mural, Jamie did a second one for elementary school kids to complete, featuring the theme "You Matter."

Kids Honor Arbor Day With Tree Planting

An enthusiastic group of third graders filed out of Mr. Beckius' bus last Thursday afternoon. It wasn't the official national Arbor Day, but the kids made it the local one. With a little guidance from tree experts and volunteers, the youngsters planted a new row of trees at the Ellendale Acres development east of the Harvest Inn. The new line of trees is just north of the one planted by last years' third graders. Those trees are encased in protective sleeves, and are budding out just fine, having survived the long dry spell of the early summer. ***Turn to page 9 for more on the tree planting & Arbor Day things.***

May 21: Annual Arts Council Meeting to Feature Talk on Early Ellendale Entertainment

Ken Smith, best known for his work with the *Dickey County Leader*, has also volunteered for many years with the Ellendale Historical Society and the Ellendale Area Arts Council.

Early Ellendalers like entertainment. They had all-night dances (both indoors and outdoors), grand galas at the roller skating rink, costume parties at the courthouse, orchestras and choirs and traveling circuses, amateur and professional drama productions, literary recitations, spelling bees, horse races and bicycle races, glass-ball shooting contests, baseball games, chartered railroad excursions, travelling entertainers, and social events of an amazing variety.

Most people know so little about life here in the 1880s and 1890s (long before the Opera House) that they might assume the early town was boring. That's not true! Early newspapers reveal extremely rich, active community filled with people who loved having fun and put their whole heart into it (even if they wore old-fashioned, Victorian-style clothing).

Ken Smith is currently working on a Ph.D. dissertation about Ellendale's first decades (1882-1901), under NDSU professor Tom Isern. Ken will be presenting an illustrated talk at the Annual Meeting of the Ellendale Area Arts Council, at the Opera House, Saturday, May 21. The business meeting will commence at 9:30 AM followed by a free brunch. The illustrated talk will begin at about 10:00. This is the same talk Ken presented at the Dakota Conference at Augustana College this April, to great applause.

Everyone interested in the Arts in Ellendale (and interested in our local history) is welcome to attend. The invitation comes with a guarantee: you will learn things about Ellendale's early history that you never knew before and that will surprise you! Among other things, you will realize why our town was such a great place to build an Opera House. See you there!

"All-In, All-School Fund Drive" Aims at Enlisting New O.P.E.R.A. Donors

O.P.E.R.A., Inc.--If you've thought about contributing to restoration of the Ellendale Opera House but never donated, this year's fund drive hopes to enlist your financial support with a special double-match.

For each dollar donated to the *All-In, All-School Fund Drive* by first-time contributors, anonymous O.P.E.R.A. supporters will match that amount with $2, up to a total of $10,000.

In other words, if $10,000 is contributed by first-time donors, O.P.E.R.A. will receive a total of $30,000 toward this year's fund drive.

Also new this year:

- An *"Acres for O.P.E.R.A."* program is being offered to encourage Dickey County farm owners to donate a portion of their crop to the non-profit organization. Donating grain directly to O.P.E.R.A. can provide tax benefits to farm owners. (Farm owners should consult a tax professional to determine if the program would benefit them.)
- All contributions by past donors will be matched dollar-for-dollar by O.P.E.R.A. supporters up to a maximum of $20,000.
- And, those who donate $250 or more to the *All-In, All-School Fund Drive* between now and August 31 will receive a custom-designed O.P.E.R.A. coffee mug (while supplies last).

The name of this year's fund drive refers to the Ellendale High School All-School Reunion being held July 7-10. The reunion of all high school classes is held every five years and involves special events and activities, including a "Walk of Fame" dinner with induction of past and present residents who have made notable contributions to the community.

During the all-school reunion week, the Ellendale Opera House Lobby & Gallery will be open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., providing a place for conversation and free refreshments. Donation forms, information about the Opera House restoration and tours will be provided.

A special photography exhibit with images from the the 2020 governor's photo contest will be on display in the gallery during the reunion. The photography exhibit will be up from June 20 until July 20. O.P.E.R.A. began its current "Building Our Future and Preserving Our Past" capital campaign in late 2018 to raise funds to bring the 1909 opera house back to full use by the community.

This historic photo, enhanced by Kevin Kendall, shows the Opera House as it appeared in the late 1920's. Busy storefronts were streetside: upstairs was a 900-seat auditorium with full balcony and a variety of offices, including the home of the Masonic Lodge and the Coleman Dental Office.

Last year, the group raised $78,000 during its *"Next Step"* fund drive.

In 2020, the group raised nearly $40,000 in a matching fund drive to help pay for rebuilding part of the building's north wall. The $200,000 wall re-construction was completed with a combination of O.P.E.R.A. funds and a U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development loan and grant.

In 2019, O.P.E.R.A. raised nearly $80,000 as part of the 80th birthday celebration for long-time opera house advocate Jeanette Robb. The group raised another $13,000 in donations from the book *Visions from My Childhood* with images created by Ellendale native Kevin Kendall.

Now that the critical back wall improvement is complete, the organization has turned its focus to upgrades that will help increase use of the building by business and community groups.

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An acrylic on canvas art display with many larger-than life pieces is on display at the Opera House Lobby each Friday through June 10. The artist, Jennifer White, owns Post Pilgrim Gallery in Sioux Falls, SD and has been widely praised for her unique modern renditions of Native American themes. The display will be open Fridays from 11:00 to 5:00. The OPERA "lunchwagon" meals are served there from 11:00 to 1:00 each Friday, so it's a good chance to appreciate the art and also have lunch. All donations are tax deductible and will go toward the O.P.E.R.A. Restoration Project. In addition, all profits from the sale of lunches will go toward furthering the Project.

Walk of Fame Inductee Built on Legacy of Ellendale's Pioneer Undertaker

by Ken Smith

At this year's All School Reunion (July 7-9, 2022), five individuals will be inducted into the Ellendale Walk of Fame. The Walk of Fame began in 2007, which coincided with the town's 125th anniversary. The Walk of Fame stars in the sidewalk and the corresponding plaques at Brandenburger Park (at Ellendale's main intersection) do more, though, than simply honor individuals. They point to the community's history as an environment offering great opportunities, through the support of schools, voluntary societies, churches, businesses, and various other groups that have made it a great place to live.

One of this year's five inductees--Ralph L. Holte (1921-2008) is unique among the five in that he represents the third generation of his family, and he carried on a business they established here in 1882, and which continues to this day, although under a new management and new name. Some older readers will recognize the name "Holte Furniture and Hardware," and associate it with the tall storefront (now vacant) next to Starion Bank. Some will also know that well into the twentieth century, that storefront was also home to Ellendale's longest established and busiest undertaker.

In recommending Ralph L. Holte's inclusion, Walk of Fame committee members spoke of his warm, encouraging demeanor, his broad-ranging community service, and his tireless behind the scenes work that helped bring Ellendale a hospital, a modern airport, a nursing home, and other improvements.

Ralph L. Holte (1921-2008) devoted fifty years of his life to the mortuary business started by his grandfather Nels in 1882. The family operated Holte Furniture and Hardware on Main Street from 1882 up until the mid 1970's, but was best known for providing the essential service of undertaking, with branches in Ashley, Edgeley, Oakes and Kulm.

"He was more of a hand-in-hand guy," observed his son Ralph B. Holte. "He really didn't like the limelight." A photograph from October, 1960, illustrates this nicely: Ralph is standing in a meadow with nine other community leaders. Three have shovels in their hands. They are breaking ground for the Ellendale Nursing Center, the facility that grew into what is now the Benedictine/Prince of Peace care center.

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DICKEY COUNTY LEADER

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EHS QuarterBack Sponsored Athletic Banquet Tonight 6:30 pm - Fireside Guest Speaker is Rick Hack

Youngsters Enthusiastic About Safe Hunting

This happy group of youngsters took a few minutes out of their lengthy hunter safety training session (the last of several) last Saturday to pose for a photo. The course, taught by Matt Herman, Kenneth Retzlaff, and Walt Zimbleman, includes lessons on many aspects of hunting, from wildlife ecology and conservation to the philosophy of hunting, to a range of safety considerations when handling a gun or hunting in the field. Hands-on instruction is given to ensure familiarity with the proper methods for safe use of firearms.

Just before this photo was taken, Mr. Herman had led the students in viewing a video that showed numerous different situations faced in hunting, and for each situation, posed the question "Shoot or don't shoot?" and asked the students to respond. In the majority of the cases shown, the proper answer was "don't shoot" as a dangerous and/or illegal incident could easily result. The students scored very well on this part. Matt stressed that it's always better to err on the side of safety, Matt, Ken and Walt each have decades of experience teaching hunter's safety and are happy to see the rising generation of hunters.

Food Distribution Set for Wednesday, May 4 at 2:30 pm

The Great Plains Food Bank will bring a pop-up food distribution to Ellendale on Wednesday, May 4 at 2:30 pm. Anyone who would like to receive food items can get in line with their vehicle near the Ellendale Community Food Pantry, which is located at 504 2nd Ave N.

Friday Lunch is Back at the Opera House

With warm weather and the return of snowbirds from southerly places comes the resumption of Friday lunches at the Opera House. Last year, these popular meals began to be served inside the Opera House instead of the converted camper that served as the O.P.E.R.A. foodwagon. It was a popular change. It also made preparing and serving easier. Patrons also enjoyed being able to sit around tables indoors and visit with friends.

These Friday meals are inexpensive but are an important source of fund raising for the O.P.E.R.A. organization. Everyone is welcome to stop by any Friday between 11:00 and 1:00 to take a break and get a tasty lunch. See you there!

EHS Track Fan Added Innovation to His Many Years of Help at Meets

by Ken Smith

"That's a good idea--very efficient," said a spectator standing behind the discus net at last Thursday's track meet. The spectator was referring to the method Ron Kosel was using to mark the landing spots of each of the discus throws.

It seems simple, but it's made a difference. "When they thow," said Ron, "we've got little pins that will mark where the discus lands. Before, we used to have to measure every throw, and it took forever."

The improved method came about, Ron explained, when a visiting coach brought a bucket of markers to a meet. When all the athletes had thrown the discus, the measuring line was stretched out and the distance to each marcker was recorded. And so Ron decided to make his own discus markers. He used short lengths of spring steel, and had them welded to metal squares, which he then painted white and attached numbers. It was a big improvement.

Ron has been a track fan for decades longer than the current athletes have been alive. He threw discus as an Ellendale High School athlete and also as a student at UND-Ellendale Branch. After graduating college in 1969 (the same year as his wife Maxine), the couple taught for seven or eight years at LaMoure. Ron also finished his graduate degree at NDSU. Then he and Maxine came back to Ellendale to operate Kosel's Four Seasons, a popular clothing store that was located next to Starion Bank.

Back in Ellendale, Ron would always help out with track meets whenever he was able. Maxine wanted to attend, to see their children compete, but this was usually not posssible, since she had to stay and take care of things at the store. Kosel's Four Seasons closed its doors in 1993, leaving Ellendale with one less business. However it did give Maxine the freedom to do other things, such as attend track meets with Ron.

Track coach Richard Reis contacted the *Leader* last week with special mention of Ron and his service. Richard is deeply appreciative of all the volunteers, who make it possible to run a track meet. So many events are going on simultaneously, that lots of volunteers are essential. Richard would have liked to name all those who helped last week, but said that "I'd hate to miss or leave anyone off that list, since it takes SO MANY to adequately run a meet."

"I would however," he said, "appreciate very much sending my thank you to all those who do volunteer (in no particular order): parents, grandparents, community members, former EHS athletes, current EHS athletes/students, future EHS athletes, Quarterback Club members, and EPS staff members."

Paved Streets, Storm Drain System are Legacies of Earl Redlin's 1960's Mayoral Term

by Ken Smith

"This is our opportunity to provide what we are lacking, knowing in many cases the price will be difficult, but in the long run beneficial. Ellendale cannot afford to turn down this improvement . . . All our wishes for bigger things for Ellendale cannot be accomplished unless we provide the initiative." --Mayor Earl H. Redlin, July 1964.

In conjunction with the 2022 all school reunion, this year's Walk of Fame will honor five Ellendale citizens. Two of them served as mayors of Ellendale. John Bell (1958-1962) and Earl Redlin 1962-1968) both served during the long postwar boom that saw major economic growth in our area. Both oversaw significant improvements. But in all of Ellendale's history, no municipal improvement was as important as the reconstruction of Ellendale's streets. In mid-1964, they were in poor condition. By fall, 1965, nearly all were paved with new concrete curbs. This was done in coordination with a new surface drainage system that relieved most of the flooding that had long troubled residents.

"Paving was such a big deal," remembers Ellendale native Kevin Kendall. "I think that made people more happy than anything back then, having those streets paved. I remember my dad just loved that because the streets would be all muddy after it rained, and it would be just a mess. And once those streets were paved, it was just beautiful. People would say 'heck with sidewalks,' and they'd be walking down the streets."

This photo, published in the April 22, 1965 *Leader*, looks south on 5th Avenue. The swimming pool is obscured by the bushes on the right. On the left is the present location of the tennis courts, with South Park beyond. During spring melts and after rains, Ellendale's streets sometimes looked like this before being covered with modern pavement.

Flooding

Southeast North Dakota is usually considered a moderate rainfall area, but from time to time, portions are subject to drought conditions. At other times, portions are subject to severe flooding. Sixty years ago--in the summer of 1962--Ellendalers realized the town needed serious action to deal with periods of excess water.

On July 10, amid "a weather picture which included violent storms, tornadoes and torrential rain," nearly three inches of water came down in "a two hour deluge."

"The downpour turned local streets into rivers, completely overpowering sewer and drainage facilities and leaving practically no house or business building without water in the basement.

"Many Ellendale residents were up until 4. a.m. or later Friday, as they attempted to battle water in unwanted places Some basements were flooded almost to the ceiling from backed up sewers, seepage, or both.

"Entire blocks and many street intersections were completely underwater following the storm. Much normal activity stopped Friday, as citizens devoted their attention to pumping water and mopping up.

"Two Ellendale fire truck pumpers, plus regular city pumps, were in action until near midnight Friday as city officials fought the water problem. Most effort was directed at pumping from sanitary sewers into storm sewers, so that local residents could resume using floor drains, sinks and toilets.

"Official estimate that they pumped approximately 50,000 gallons of water per hour for at least an eight-hour stretch Friday. This does not include the thousands of gallons pumped by private citizens."

The storm might not have made such a big impression if not for what followed later in that month: "The entire 1¾ inch rain came in a single one-hour deluge last Thursday, mixed with some hail" reported the Leader on July 26, 1962. "The result was nearly a repeat performance of two weeks ago, as Ellendale residents stayed up until the wee hours battling water which rushed into basements and backed up sewers."

The Project

Earl Redlin had been sworn in as mayor just a few months before these storms had hit. Earl knew, as did most Ellendale residents, that the water problems were not new. As discussions on drainage dominated the next few city council meetings, Redlin and his colleagues agreed that the local climate and the lay of the land required an all-encompassing solution. And they realized that to maintain the town's status as a highly desirable place to live and work, the streets would need to be fully paved, with modern curbs installed.

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Medora Christmas Show Returns to Ellendale, Promising Family Holiday Fun - December 11th

Medora performers past and present are taking a holiday show on the road in November and December, with stops in 22 communities including December 11th in Ellendale.

The Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation announced "A Magical Medora Christmas Tour" has been a travelling holiday favorite for five years.

The Ellendale show is set for 7:30 p.m. December 11th at Trinity Bible College. **Tickets are on sale now at www.medora.com.**

A cast of eight stars from Medora's past and present will travel across North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, and Minnesota, performing 30 times in 22 communities to help audiences get into the holiday spirit.

A Magical Medora Christmas is a family-friendly holiday show that's full of spirit, humor and expertly-performed music that audiences have grown to expect from Medora. The 2021 tour is anchored by veteran Medora entertainer Bill Sorenson.

"The response to our tour has been overwhelmingly positive and extremely rewarding," Sorenson said.

"This year folks are in for a lot of fun. We're bringing back some of our most well-received songs, and adding a lot of new material, all performed by some of the very best talent Medora has ever offered."

The cast includes five performers fresh off the 2021 Medora Musical, including Taylor Leet of Bismarck and J'Kobe Wallace of Minot, as well as Jessica Brandish, Travis Smith, and Adam Vogel. Medora Musical alumni Chad Willow and Amberly Rosen round out the cast.

Matt Thorpe Resigns as City Mayor; Don Flaherty Appointed Acting Mayor

Story & Photo by Ken Smith

After much thought, I have decided to resign as mayor of Ellendale. The decision did not come easy, but I feel it is the best time for me to do this. I do appreciate all the time and work everyone has done over the past seven and a half years and I expect everyone will continue to do the same.

Thank you,

Mayor Thorpe.

At the regular monthly meeting of the Ellendale City Council, Mayor Matt Thorpe's letter of resignation was read and submitted into the record. The Council members accepted the letter, and expressed thanks for his service. They then selected Don Flaherty to serve as acting mayor.

According to the North Dakota Century Code, section 40-08-16, there are three ways a mayoral vacancy can be addressed. The President of the City Council (in this case, Don Flaherty) can serve out the remainder of a vacated term. Or, if the Council so desires, they can call a special election to fill the position. Or, if a petition gains the support of five percent of qualified electors, as determined by the total number of votes cast in the city's last election, a new election can be held.

In this case, a special election is unlikely. According to City Auditor Candace Middlestead, there are no major conflicts behind the resignation, and no outstanding issues that would require an election prior to the one scheduled in the spring.

Candace added that Matt has served effectively for just short of eight years. Due to unusually demanding time constraints, he felt it best to relinquish the mayorship now, rather than at the end of his present term. One of the time constraints comes from Matt's work as an employee of DRN, for which he must spend considerable time traveling. That and other obligations, including the need for family time, were major considerations in his decision to resign.

"He was a good listener," said Ellendale City Auditor Candace Middlestead of Mayor Matt Thorpe in his role as mayor. Monthly city council meetings involved a great amount of focused listening, and that is what Mayor Thorpe was doing when this photo was taken on April 12. This meeting, like most since the COVID pandemic, was held at the Community Center, which provided adequate space for social distancing. The microphones were part of the communication system, which allowed remote participation via Zoom. City Council members expressed appreciation for Mayor Thorpe's many years of service.

City business has been conducted as normal in Thorpe's absence, and will continue as it has been. Plans for a major sewer system repair, which have been moving forward for over a year, are still on track.

Current City Council Members are President Don Flaherty (now acting mayor), Dawn Bauer, Bruce Crabtree, Tom Denison, Justin Meidinger, and Rick Wadholm Sr. Regular City Council meetings are open to the public and are held the second Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. Until further notice, the meetings are held at the Senior Center to facilitate social distancing. The public can also participate via Zoom.

The election for three City Council positions and for Mayor will be held on June 14, 2022. Those interested in running for any of those offices may begin circulating petitions on January 1, 2022. Petitions must be filed in the Auditor's office by April 11.

Detailed information on these and other specifics related to municipal elections can be accessed at **vote.nd.gov**

EPS Head Custodian Thankful for True Value Donations, Support for His Work

Butch Middlestead & Dennis Ketterling

"It's a big job," said Dennis Ketterling, head custodian at the Ellendale Public School. "I've got the high school, the elementary, the new gym, the old gym, and the lunchroom to take care of." Motioning to his cell phone, which contains an app that tracks his daily movements, Dennis cited an example: "Yesterday," he said "I put on 25 miles."

Dennis was at the Hardware store on October 27 to claim seven boxes of janitorial supplies donated by the True-Value Company. In the boxes were big jugs of various cleaning agents, soaps, dispensers with pumps, and more, including a package of N-95 face masks. True Value owner Butch Middlestead estimated the value of the supplies at several hundred dollars. He obtained them, he explained, by being among the first 500 dealers to submit a request for these standard supplies, which are used almost universally in janitorial work.

When Dennis remarked on the many miles of steps it takes to fulfill his daily tasks, he wasn't complaining. Asked if the students treat EPS janitors well, he responded in the affirmative. And he also appreciates the support he gets from the administration and members of the public who often comment on how neat and clean the school is kept. Part of the credit for keeping things in shape at the school, he said, goes to his assistants Dawn Bauer and Steven Schumaker.

Dennis started at EPS in 2009, and literally "worked" his way to head custodian. It's an occupation that keeps him in shape as well as the school: not many jobs require this much walking. By his smile and pleasant attitude, it's a good fit for him. And it certainly helps keep him fit.

TruValue's corporate press release for the donation reads as follows: "*To ensure the health and safety of students, teachers, administrators, and staff at their local school, True Value -Ellendale has donated kits consisting of hand sanitizer, germicidal cleaner, KN-95 masks, and hand soap.*

"At the beginning of the pandemic, True Value Manufacturing retooled its EasyCare paint production facility in Cary, Illinois, to produce FDA-approved hand sanitizer and other essential cleaning products to meet unprecedented nationwide consumer demand for health and cleaning essentials. In August, the True Value Foundation decided to go even further to address the growing public need for these products as schools reopen by launching the Educational Heroes Safety campaign. This collaborative effort between the Company and its independent retailers aims to keep America's kids learning while keeping our frontline educational heroes safe." ***Photo by Ken Smith***

Trinity V.P. Gets Acquainted with Ellendale & the Opera House

Story & Photo by Ken Smith

"We are constantly trying to figure out ways we can do better, not just as OPERA, but with our involvement a city. When I was growing up, rankly, there was a huge divide on Main Street. As soon as you hit campus, it was, 'that's them and this is us." And I'm not sure what drove that. And so I'm glad to say that although maybe that wall is not broken down completely, at least we can see over it."

Contractor Justin Meidinger has enough work to keep him busy every waking hour. But he's committed to the betterment of Ellendale. For many years he's been a member of the City Council, an active member of the Ellendale Area Arts Council, and in recent years he has served as Executive Director of O.P.E.R.A., the "Organization of People for the Restoration of the Arts in Ellendale."

Mark Hausfield (left) and Justin Meidinger paused for a moment at the landing at the top of the wide steps that lead to the main auditorium of the Opera House. The posters behind them represent a few of the many theater performances that have been put on by local actors under O.P.E.R.A. auspices. O.P.E.R.A. supporters look forward to a future with many more such events.

On Friday November 12, Justin took nearly two hours to visit with Mark Hausfield, a new member of the administration at Trinity bible College. Mark's title is "Vice President of Institutional Innovation." He has been with the college for only three months, but with a ready smile and a cordial manner, Mark has already made quite an impression on the campus and in many in the community.

One of Mark's priorities is learning more about Ellendale, understanding its history and its unique challenges and its potential for growth and improvement. He was particularly interested in the ongoing effort to preserve and restore the Opera House. Justin was eager to give an informative briefing on the mission and ongoing progress of O.P.E.R.A., and provide a detailed tour of the Opera House.

The upstairs auditorium of the Opera House was dimly lit, and repairs are far from complete but Mark's enthusiasm for the restoration was sparked by Justin's description of the grand historical venue, which on many occasions held audiences of over 1,000. "This is really amazing," Mark said, impressed not only with the audaciousness of a small town building the structure in the first place, but of the same town working to restore it and pass it on to the future.

Before the tour, Justin and Mark were joined over lunch by Ken Smith, President of the Historical Society, who outlined some of Ellendale's history with an illustrated slide show that included historic photos enhanced by Kevin Kendall. A major theme was the central importance to the town of the State School that prospered here from 1899 to 1971. The painful transition that unfolded after the state legislature demoted the school from a four-year to a two-year institution was discussed, as was the fatal blow of the January 1970 fire that led to the state school's demise.

This five-decades-old history, it was stressed, still matters. The Trinity community at the east end of town remembers and celebrates the "multi-million-dollar miracle" of obtaining the abandoned campus (and responsibility for caring for it) for a dollar. From another perspective, though, the loss of the state school was felt as a severe blow to the identity of the community.

Mark's background makes him an ideal ambassador for helping build bridges between campus and community. His major focus for many years, after all, has been on efforts to build bridges between Christians and Muslims, two religious and cultural identities that are often seen as in necessary conflict. One of Mark's first roles at Trinity was to deliver the 2021 Annual Herman G. Johnson Lecture. That lecture was on the theme of "Islam in Rural America: Reaching Diaspora Muslims Through the Local Church." Mark's core message was that there is no reason to be fearful of Muslims, but every reason to be welcoming and kind to individuals with different traditions and backgrounds, and to learn to relate to them on the basis of individual friendship, as opposed to group stereotypes.

At a special event last month, as was reported in the *Leader,* O.P.E.R.A. announced another milestone in the long effort to restore this grand building. Justin and others who have been devoted to this work are always happy to build relationships with others who are interested in the same vision.

(Read more about Mark Hausfield on page 3)

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Legion Baseball Received MDU Donation for Grandstands

On October 13, Scott Wertz of MDU handed a generous check to Andy Wertz and Don Flaherty, board members of Ellendale's American Legion Baseball Club. The funds will go toward construction of new grandstands and shelter. The existing structure, built by an EHS industrial arts class led by instructor Earl Gall, has served for nearly 40 years, but is in need of replacement. Andy and Don pointed out that not only is the present structure a bit rickety, the posts on which it rests have risen over a foot since construction, due to frost heaving. Demolition and the pouring of concrete footings for the new grandstands are expected to commence before winter takes hold.

Current Legion Baseball board members are Cresta Miller, Jeff Thorpe, Andy Wertz, and Don Flaherty. The program has a long history in Ellendale and the volunteers who make it happen are looking forward to a long future, as well as an excellent seating facility from which to enjoy the action. Look for more information about this project, as well as interesting historical background on the Legion baseball facility, in an upcoming *Leader*.

Student-Inspired "Spooktacular" Concert Brings Scary Music & Fun to Season

It was standing room only Sunday afternoon (October 24) as Charlene Blondo's chorus and band students, costumed for the occasion, entertained with Halloween-themed songs and instrumentals. The somewhat "dark" theme of the dress and music mixed nicely with the bright, colorful designs of the barn quilt gallery display hanging on the walls. The barn quilt exhibit will be open for public viewing 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm Fridays and Saturdays through November 20. On Saturday, Nov. 6 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm, a barn quilt open house will be held, with a live demonstration from instructor Karin Baker.

From 6:15 pm to 7:15 pm on Tuesday, Nov. 2, the Ellendale Community Food pantry will host a drive-up food giveaway. Come and get some healthy eats!
504 2nd Ave. N.

"It was fun. It was their idea to do this. We were talking about Christmas already, and they said 'why don't we ever do anything for Halloween?' And I said 'well, do you want to?' And they said '*Yeah, yeah*!'"

During most of Sunday's "Spooktacular" concert at the Opera House Lobby, EPS music teacher Charlene Blondo was hidden behind the piano at the north end of the room. Her two dozen students started out with three spooky, humorous songs, "Spooky Town," "Purple People Eater", and "Spooky Scary Skeleton." Then followed a rousing Musical interlude with lots of well-executed screeches and odd noises leading to a room- shaking crescendo. After that, the chorus performed "Monster Mash," "Things that Go Bump in the Night" and "A Dark and Stormy Night."

At the end of the half-hour concert, Charlene emerged from behind her piano to reveal her elaborate witch costume, and with a broad smile spread a good bit of cheer to students and parents and other guests, who enjoyed refreshments and exchanged compliments regarding the fine performance.

Charlene and her students had been working on this performance for about a month. They are pleased with how it went. Now they will be practicing for their Christmas concert, which will be held at the school, date to be announced.

Veterans Photos Needed for Veterans Day Program at EPS

The 9th Annual Veterans' Day program at Ellendale Public School is being planned. The date and time will be released in the next few days. Watch for date and time.

All veterans are invited to attend as well as the general public. The program format will consist of the following: color guard and music selections by various groups.

If you have any pictures of current or past military members that have not previously been submitted for the slide show, please submit them (with name and rank) by Friday, November 5, to aradermacher@ellendale.k12.nd.us or drop them off at the school.

The students at Ellendale Public School are always a part of this special program honoring our veterans - those that served and those presently serving. Public is invited - use north gym entrance.

Opera House Passes Milestone in Fundraising, Entertainment

On Friday, October 15, the Ellendale Opera House hosted something never seen there before. Tom Isern, host of the weekly Facebook based "Willow Creek Folk School" program, set up for his performance on the stage of the big auditorium upstairs, which once seated over 900 people. Building codes prevented the audience from gathering there, but a good-sized group of appreciative viewers were assembled in the lobby downstairs to view the broadcast on a big screen. This was the first time a regular program has been broadcast via internet from this big local stage.

The program included readings by Guelph correspondent Rose Sell, whose "Guelph News" column appears every week in the Times Leader section of this paper and the Oakes Times. Rose read several of her pieces in between verses of Tom's "I love to Tell the Stories," which matched his original lyrics with a much-loved gospel tune. Those simple lyrics appear on page three.

Friday night also marked a milestone in the long project to bring the Opera House building back to full functionality. Following the program, Greg Gackle, who has spearheaded much of the progress on restoration of the building, thanked the crowd for their ongoing support. To much applause and many smiles, Greg announced that the total raised was $73,125, surpassing the "Next Step" fund-raising goal of $50,000.

Details regarding the fund raising milestone, and the Willow Creek Folk School program are on page 3 of this issue.

Tom Isern and Rose Sell on the Big Stage in the Opera House Auditorium

Trunk or Treat Returns to Main Street, Oct. 31

"Trunk 'r Treat "events give a chance for creative people to show what they can come up with. In 2010, these TBC students went with a Wizard of Oz theme, complete with portrayals of Dorothy, the tin man and the scarecrow. In the trunk were a yellow brick road, a tornado made of cotton, a talking tree from the haunted forest, a winged monkey, and a wicked witch. The 2010 Trunk 'r Treat was held in the TBC parking lot, where this photo was taken. This may have been the first such event in Ellendale, but it certainly would not be the last. ***(Photo by Ken Smith)***

"A Free Meal will be served!"

Most Halloween-themed events feature plenty of candy. The organizers of this year's "Trunk or Treat" assure the public that there will be plenty of that. But, like last year, folks hungry for some regular food will get that, too.

Ellendale has seen "Trunk or Treat" events since at least 2010, when the Student Council at TBC organized to hold one in the parking lot in front of the Student Life Center. Lots of students and townspeople found interesting ways to decorate the trunks of their cars, the backs of their minivans, or the beds of their pickups. The themes ranged from semi-scary to downright funny. Some of the trunks had carnival-type games for kids to play. To help motivate creativity, prizes were given for best trunk setups. Lots of candy was given out, and lots of fun was had.

Subsequent events have been held in parking lots and on downtown Main Street, where this year's event will be held. Pastors Kelly Riggan and Kevin Libby have joined together to organize the event. The many volunteers are expected to provide lots of fun entertainment, as well as plenty of candy and food. Attendees can also expect to see a lot of energy and creativity on display.

The event runs from 4:00 and 6:00 pm Sunday, October 31, on Main Street.

Red Maple Shows Its True Colors

"That was supposed to have been a Red Maple that I had planted in my yard," said a landowner to the tree expert. "Why isn't it red?"

Relating an incident from many years earlier in his tree work, arborist Tom Rude said he had to explain that Red Maples are only red for a short time in the fall. "To everything there is a season" would be a good maxim.

Tom called the *Leader* last week to mention a nice example of this admired species. It is located on Myra Rada's yard in Ellendale, on 6th street north. The tree's red glow (seen here with the low-lying afternoon sun on it) might remind one of our school's official bird, the Cardinal. Or, with the green leaves of its neighbor in the background, it might inspire thoughts of Christmas.

The Red Maple is a highly prized tree, but it is not rare. *Wikipedia* reports that "the U.S. Forest service recognizes it as the most abundant native tree in eastern North America." The tree "ranges from southeastern Manitoba around the Lake of the Woods on the border with Ontario and Minnesota, east to Newfoundland, south to Florida, and southwest to East Texas."

And it is perfectly at home in the Ellendale area.

(photo by Ken Smith)

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David Golnitz Inducted Into Concordia University Hall of Fame

David Golnitz
1969 Frederick HS graduate

ST. PAUL, Minn. – Concordia University has announced the Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2021. The nine new members inducted this year are: Jonathan Breitbarth, Emily (Palkert) Davis, Brenden Furrow, David Golnitz, Craig Heiman, Ron Hilk, Travis Johansen, Sami Mattson and Janet (Brownawell) Smith.

This year's induction class represents eight total sports led by three from track & field and football, two each from cross country, baseball and softball along with one from volleyball, men's basketball and wrestling. The class is comprised of six men and three women and includes four multi-sport athletes.

The 2021 CSP Athletic Hall of Fame class was officially inducted at the Athletic Hall of Fame brunch during Homecoming 2021 weekend on Saturday, October 9 at 9 a.m. on campus at the Buenger Education Center (BEC).

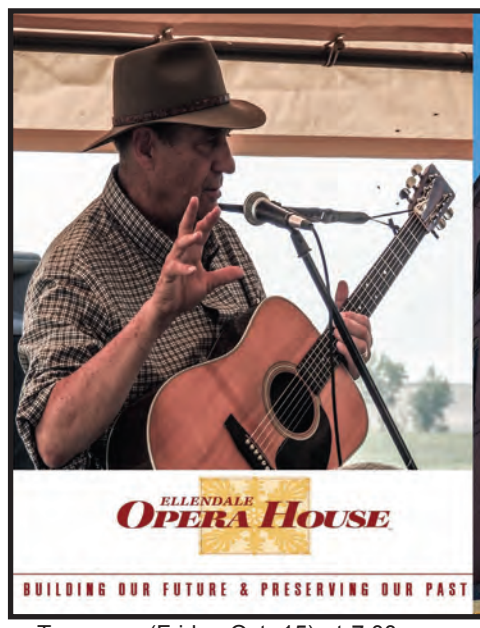
The nine new members represent the 16th induction class to the Athletic Hall of Fame dating back to its origination in 1992. The Hall of Fame now has 135 members.

Concordia began sponsoring four-year college athletics in 1967-68, competing as a junior college and high school (academy) from its founding in 1893 until that time. Until 1999, CSP was known as the Comets and competed as members of the NAIA before its transition to NCAA Division II with membership in the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) starting in the 1999-2000 academic year.

Ellendale High School Ranks in Top 15%

Ellendale High School ranks in the top 15% of all North Dakota public schools based on the North Dakota Accountability Index (NDAI). The NDAI is a public school's score on measures such as state assessment results, student engagement levels, choice ready indicators, and graduation rates. For more information, check out North Dakota Insights at https://insights.nd.gov/.

Willow Creek Folk School Will be Live From Ellendale Opera House Friday @ 7:00



Tomorrow (Friday Oct. 15) at 7:00 p.m., a public reception will be held to celebrate the successful completion of O.P.E.R.A.'s latest fund drive. NDSU Professor Tom Isern, who for many years has worked to support the restoration, will broadcast his weekly program from the upstairs of the Opera House. (left: Tom performing at Lawrence Welk Homestead; Ellendale Opera House; Tom performing at Prince of Peace.

Article and Photos by Ken Smith

"We'll join you from the historic Opera House in Ellendale, North Dakota," said Professor Tom Isern to his diverse audience on his folk program last week. "This is an amazing gig," he added. "We're actually going on stage in the Opera House. We'll be doing the folk school from the stage in the Opera House and it's going to stream into the reception room--the crowd will be gathering there while we stream." The event will be on Friday, October 15 at 7:00

Tom Isern, Distinguished University Professor at NDSU, is no stranger to Ellendale. In his tens of thousands (or maybe hundreds of thousands) of miles driving around the state and region, Tom has made countless stops here. He has frequently appeared as a storyteller, lecturer, historical consultant, discussion moderator, or musical performer. Sometimes his visits have combined all of these roles. Other times, he's stopped in just to visit with old friends, and to meet a few new ones, or to join a church supper, watch a parade, or attend a high school sporting event.

Tom's travels have endeared him to his innumerable acquaintances. They have also made him one of the best examples of the sort of outreach for which land-grant agricultural colleges like NDSU were founded. He is at home on the campus and classroom, where he has served faithfully since 1992. But whenever time allows, he gets in his black Ford F-150 pickup (often accompanied by a hunting dog and shotgun) and traverses the rural byways, which include every corner of the state.

When he was growing up in rural Kansas, Tom's mother hoped he'd become a minister. That never panned out, but he often compares himself to a circuit riding preacher, moved along as much by his Missouri Synod Lutheran heritage as are many who wear the clerical collar.

Those travels have not only yielded countless friends, they have given Tom a rich trove of stories grounded in the experience of the people of the farms and the towns. In 2018, NDSU Press (whose editor-in-chief is his wife Suzzanne Kelley) published his book *Pacing Dakota*, his collection of rich, deeply historically grounded stories of the land and its people. *Pacing Dakota* won the Independent Publishers Book Award Gold Medal for regional nonfiction, and was also the Independent Press Award Winner in Western nonfiction.

Pacing Dakota (the print book as well as the audio version) have seen strong sales and distribution, often with the proceeds being donated to the nonprofit organization where Tom happens to be the guest. Signed copies of the book, as well as a variety of other regionally themed books published by NDSU Press, will be available at tomorrow's event.

UPDATE: On Monday, Tom informed the *Leader* that Rose Sell, *Times-Leader* correspondent for Guelph, will be reading some of her dispatches from the stage during the Friday program.

(see Transitions Column, "Willow Creek Folk School" on p. 2)

Don Zimbleman Honored

Submitted article & photo

On July 6, 2021, the Dickey County Weed Board and the Dickey County Commissioners presented a glass desk plaque to the family of Don G. Zimbleman commemorating the 29 years Don served as a Weed Board Member.

Originally organized in 1981, Don was appointed to the Dickey County Weed Board on February 4, 1986 replacing one of the original members. Always an advocate for the control of noxious weeds and the betterment of his community, Don faithfully served the farmers and ranchers of Dickey County for 29 consecutive years.

Don's service to the Weed Board ended on November 21, 2020 when he passed away from Covid-19.

Pictured (l-r): County Commissioners, John Hokana, Donelle (Zimbleman) Walstead, Don Zimbleman, and Terry Weis, Dickey County Weed Officer

Progress in Opera House Restoration Campaign

"We're very thankful for all those who pitched in to date to reach our ambitious fund drive goal," said O.P.E.R.A. Executive Director Justin Meidinger. "It has been a difficult year for fund-raising, but the response to date has been great and an indication of public support of our efforts to renovate the Main Street landmark."

The challenges faced by nearly everyone in the last year and a half have not slowed down the devoted people behind the restoration of Ellendale's Opera House. A year ago, they oversaw the building of a new rear wall; this year they have moved forward in preparation for other vital improvements. Their hard work, and the generosity of many supporters, has made all this possible.

The Next Step fund drive began in May. The goal was to raise $50,000 to help pay for renovations that will allow increased community use of the historic building. The success of this phase will be celebrated at tomorrow's special event, described in the article above.

O.P.E.R.A. began its current "Building Our Future and Preserving Our Past" campaign to raise funds to restore the 1909 opera house in late 2018. In 2019, nearly $80,000 was brought in as part of the 80th birthday celebration for longtime Opera House advocate Jeanette Robb. The group raised another $13,000 in donations from the book "Visions from My Childhood" with images created by Ellendale native Kevin Kendall.

Last year, O.P.E.R.A. raised nearly $40,000 in a matching fund drive to help pay for rebuilding part of the building's north wall. The $200,000 wall re-construction was completed with a combination of O.P.E.R.A. funds and a U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development loan and grant. ***(continued on page 3)***

Eco-Ed Field Trip for 6th & 7th Grade

The 6th & 7th grade students of EPS are thankful for the opportunity to experience the James River Soil Conservation District's annual Eco-Ed Day. It was a beautiful day outside. The participants experienced different stations where they learned about native grasses and plants, different types of soil, the importance of trees, native animals to our region, and how different choices we make impact our environment. The highlight for many was guest speaker James Gerholdt of "The Remarkable Reptiles." He shared about turtles, lizards, and snakes. There was even an opportunity for students to pet his boa constrictor. ***(School photo)***

Annual Soup Kitchen Sunday, October 17th

It's time for O.P.E.R.A.'s Annual Soup Kitchen on Sunday, October 17 at the Opera House Lobby. Ten different kinds of homemade soups and breads will be available. Serving will take place from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.

It's "all you can eat" for $8.00 for adults and $5 for children under the age of 12.

This year's soups are Bacon Cheeseburger, Loaded Baked Potato Chowder, Jessie's Chili, Hamburger Vegetable, Knephla, Beer Cheese, Creamy Vegetable, Reuben, Chicken Wild Rice and Chicken Tortilla.

A variety of home baked breads add to the pleasure. A beverage is included with the meal. It is sure to make a delicious Sunday lunch for the entire family and also a chance to meet and greet friends.

Soup may be eaten in the lobby, as there will be plenty of seating, or you can 'take out' and enjoy at home.

Plan now to attend this great annual event on Sunday, October 17.

This event helps to provide funding for the Opera House Restoration. The volunteers who have staffed the Friday meals and other fund raisers this season are thankful for all their customers, both

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O.P.E.R.A. Fund Drive is More Than a Third of the Way to the $50,000 'Next Step' Goal

Donations to O.P.E.R.A., Inc.'s "Next Step" fund drive now total more than a third of the $50,000 goal. Approximately $9,000 in donations have been received as of June 30. With the dollar-for-dollar match, Contributions to date now exceed $18,000.

O.P.E.R.A. kicked off the matching fund-drive in late April to help pay for improvements aimed at increasing business and community use of the historic Ellendale Opera House.

The campaign goal is $50,000, with all contributions up to $25,000 matched dollar-for-dollar by anonymous Opera House supporters.

THOSE WHO DONATE $250 OR MORE TO THE NEXT STEP FUND-DRIVE BETWEEN NOW AND JULY 31 WILL RECEIVE A CUSTOM-DESIGNED O.P.E.R.A. MUG.

O.P.E.R.A. began its current "Building Our Future and Preserving Our Past" campaign to raise funds to restore the 1909 opera house in late 2018.

In 2019, O.P.E.R.A. raised nearly $80,000 as part of the 80th birthday celebration for long-time Opera House advocate Jeanette Robb. The group raised another $13,000 in donations from the book "Visions from My Childhood" with images created by Ellendale native Kevin Kendall.

Last year, the group raised nearly $40,000 in a matching fund drive to help pay for rebuilding part of the building's north wall. The $200,000 wall re-construction was completed with a combination of O.P.E.R.A. funds and a U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development loan and grant.

Now that the critical wall improvement is complete, the organization has turned its focus to upgrades that will help increase use of the building by business and community groups.

That work would include:

• Upgrading electric service for the first floor of the building.

• Adding a fire detection/alarm system.

• Renovating the storefront space next door to the Opera House Lobby & Gallery.

• Upgrading the rear building entrance to meet ADA requirements.

• Completing interior work on the remaining unimproved street-level storefronts. Electricity to the Opera House was added more than 20 years ago during renovation of the east storefront into the Opera House Lobby & Gallery.

However, further restoration and occupancy of the building's street-level spaces will require a significant upgrade to the current electrical service. Installation of fire detection/ alarm equipment also is needed.

"With the building stabilized and the proposed electrical and fire detection/alarm improvements, O.P.E.R.A. will be ready to make greater use of the Opera House for community purposes," Executive Director Justin Meidinger said.

Along with the new fund drive, O.P.E.R.A. is seeking a federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to help in restoring the building's Main Street storefronts. Those now vacant storefronts were once occupied by Coleman Clothing, Randall's Grocery Store and the Coast-to-Coast Hardware Store.

To contribute to the Next Step campaign, mail your donation to O.P.E.R.A., Inc. at P.O. Box 334, Ellendale, ND 58436, or donate online at: www.ellendaleoperahouse.com.

O.P.E.R.A. – Organization of People in Ellendale for Restoration of the Arts – was formed in 1992 to save the 112-year-old landmark from the wrecking ball.

Because O.P.E.R.A. is a charitable nonprofit organization, all donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

All donors will have their names listed on a display in the Opera House Lobby & Gallery. And, donations can be made to honor other individuals or family members and have those names listed on the donor display as well. For additional information, call 701-535-0347 or email jmmeid@hotmail.com

It was a Fine Fourth at Forbes

Heading to Forbes for the Fourth of July parade and associated events is a tradition that appears to not only be holding steady, but may be gaining ground. This is the third year that the present *Leader* editor has photographed the celebration for the paper, and it looks like this year's attendance was the best.

A few of the special attractions, in addition to the many returning float participants, was a Merkel CPA display with a miniature John Deere ATV and a real live pony, both under the able control of young girls. Bethany Lutheran of Forbes fielded a lively six-piece brass band. On a sad note, members of the Maud Evans Saddle club remembered the recently deceased Billy "Wild Bill" Junior Wallace by placing his name in the saddle of an unmanned horse. The obituary for Bill Wallace is on page 9.

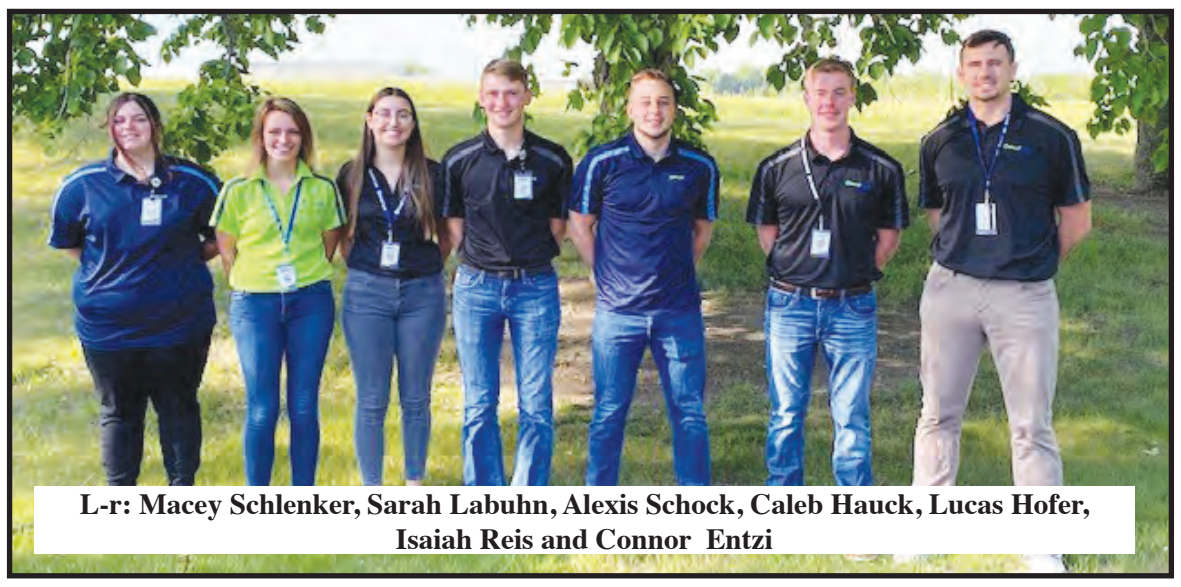
Mr. and Miss Ellendale made an appearance in the back of a shiny dark blue pickup. Kids 14 and under were able to sign up for free bicycle drawing. A brand new Forbes cookbook was available for purchase outside the museum, along with fine new tee shirts depicting the Country Life Monument.

Temperatures reached the low 90's later in the afternoon, but during the 11:30 parade most attendees found the weather quite tolerable. Of course, plenty of candy was collected by the youngsters, and everyone who wanted to stand in line got a refreshing ice cream cone at the Flying H. At dusk, the traditional fireworks show went off as planned. Star-spangled hats off to the organizers and all the men women and kids that made this happen, once again.

Fair Excitement (photos on p. 10)

No bigger smiles could be found at this year's Dickey County Fair than those of the Stateliner 4H team after they took the prize for the cornhole (beanbag tossing) tournament on Friday. The cornhole contest was just one small part of the big three-day celebration, but it brought out the teamwork from this Forbes area group, who were quite proud to have shown up teams from around the county. ***See page 10 for more scenes from the fair.***

DRN ReadiTech Welcomes Summer Interns



L-r: Macey Schlenker, Sarah Labuhn, Alexis Schock, Caleb Hauck, Lucas Hofer, Isaiah Reis and Connor Entzi

Seven college students enter DRN ReadiTech's intern program for the summer of 2021 where they will have the opportunity of working hands on in various departments.

"We are very excited to welcome these interns to our team this summer," said DRN ReadiTech's CEO/ General Manager, Kent Schimke. "We look forward to sharing our wisdom as we help guide these young adults on their career paths," he continued. The 2021 summer inters are Connor Entzi, Lucas Hofer, Alexis Schock, Macey Schlenker,Sarah Labuhn, Caleb Hauck and Isaiah Reis.

Connor Entzi, Edgeley, is an accounting intern. He is entering his senior year at Valley City State Univ. and will graduate with a degree in business administration with concentrations in managerial accounting, finance and agribusiness. He hopes to be a certified public accountant. Entzi is looking forward to contributing to the accounting team and learning more about the functions of an accounting department. At VSCU Entzi is a member of the men's basketball team. In his free time he likes to play and watch sports. In the summer he enjoys playing golf and going to the lake.

IT intern Lucas Hofer, Ellendale, graduated from Ellendale High-School in 2018 and attended Northern State University in Aberdeen, SD. He is a member of the North Dakota Air National Guard working in information technology. He plans to continue his education in IT at North Dakota State University. During his internship this summer, Hofer looks forward to learning about a wide variety of IT services and systems. In his free time he enjoys playing sports including basketball and frisbee golf, outdoor activities and hiking with friends in Colorado.

Alexis Schock, Aberdeen, SD, also joins the IT team. She is an Aberdeen Christian School graduate and a junior at North Dakota State University (NDSU). She is majoring in computer science with a minor in management information systems and plans to work in cyber security or software development. ***(Continued on page 3)***

Esther Wolff Collections are a Treasure Trove of Local History

Coleman Museum, Ellendale

Shimmin-Tveit Museum, Forbes

story & photos by Ken Smith

"When an elder dies, it's as if a whole library has burned down." –African Proverb

Dickey County resident Esther V. Wolff was a thoroughly hard working, fun loving, family oriented, patriotic German-Russian woman who was well known and respected by her acquaintances in the area, especially around Forbes and Monango. And Esther was an avid collector of local history. When she died unexpectedly at age 93 in late 2020, there was a big question on the minds of many of her friends: what would happen to her vast collection of genealogy research, and the many albums full of clippings, notes and photographs that she had lovingly pieced together over the years? Esther knew every rural cemetery in western Dickey County. She had filled countless index cards and notebooks with details about the individuals and families buried there. As an extremely active member of the Bismarck-based Germans from Russia Heritage Society, she read deeply on topics related to that ethnic heritage, and she contributed greatly to the store of knowledge offered by that organization.

Most of Esther's local history work went unseen and unspoken. But thanks to the generosity of her family, her collections will be preserved for ongoing use and are likely to be valuable to many generations of people who have common roots and interests in the small communities of our area. Last May, Esther's children, especially daughters Virginia Evans of Bismarck and Carol Wolff of Carson City Nevada, spent a few weeks organizing Esther's estate. Eager to fulfill Esther's wish that her materials be preserved, they organized two collections: one for the Shimmin-Tveit Museum in Forbes, and one for the Coleman Museum in Ellendale. Joan Hoffman, the Forbes curator, assembled the albums into a nicely accessible display in time for the Fourth of July celebration. At the Coleman Museum, space was cleared in the archives room (once the secure storage area of the Farmers National Bank) to hold multiple containers of neatly-arranged plastic file drawers, notebooks with cemetery records, and some looser materials. A prominent display outside the archives room, centered around two rows of shelving, holds some 60 local history books and album-type scrapbooks that Esther designated to be held in Ellendale.

Esther also passed on to the Coleman Museum a set of VHS tapes recording anniversary parades in towns around the area. Centennial parades, pageants and style shows are included from Monango, Forbes, Merricourt, Ashley, Kulm, Edgeley, and Fullerton. All 12 tapes have been digitized, and will soon be made available online via archive.org.

(continued on page 3)

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'Next Step' Campaign Seeks to Raise $50,000 for Ellendale Opera House Renovation

Submitted Article

O.P.E.R.A., Inc. has kicked off a new matching fund-drive – Next Step – to help pay for improvements aimed at increasing business and community use of the historic Ellendale Opera House.

The campaign goal is $50,000, with all contributions up to $25,000 matched dollar-for-dollar by anonymous Opera House supporters.

Those who donate $250 or more to the Next Step fund-drive between now and July 31 will receive a custom-designed O.P.E.R.A. mug.

O.P.E.R.A. began its current "Building Our Future and Preserving Our Past" campaign to raise funds to restore the 1909 Opera House in late 2018.

In 2019, O.P.E.R.A. raised nearly $80,000 as part of the 80th birthday celebration for longtime Opera House advocate Jeanette Robb-Ruenz. The group raised another $13,000 in donations from the book *Visions from My Childhood* with images created by Ellendale native Kevin Kendall.

Last year, the group raised nearly $40,000 in a matching fund drive to help pay for rebuilding part of the building's north wall. The $200,000 wall re-construction was completed with a combination of O.P.E.R.A. funds and a U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development loan and grant.

Now that the critical wall improvement is complete, the organization has turned its focus to upgrades that will help increase use of the building by business and community groups.

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However, further restoration and occupancy of the building's street-level spaces will require a significant upgrade to the current electrical service. Installation of fire detection / alarm equipment also is needed.

"With the building stabilized and the proposed electrical and fire detection / alarm improvements, O.P.E.R.A. will be ready to make greater use of the opera house for community purposes," said Executive Director Justin Meidinger.

Along with the new fund drive, O.P.E.R.A. is seeking a federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to help in restoring the building's Main Street storefronts.

Those now vacant storefronts were once occupied by Coleman Clothing, Randall's Grocery Store and the Coast-to-Coast Hardware Store. They were a vibrant part of the community, and the goal of O.P.E.R.A. is to reclaim some of that vibrancy, both in terms of the arts and in terms of economic development.

To contribute to the Next Step campaign, mail your donation to O.P.E.R.A., Inc. at: P.O. Box 334, Ellendale, ND 58436, or donate online at: www.ellendaleoperahouse.com.

O.P.E.R.A. – Organization of People in Ellendale for Restoration of the Arts – was formed in 1992 to save the 112-year-old landmark from the wrecking ball.

Because O.P.E.R.A. is a charitable non-profit organization, all donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

All donors will have their names listed on a display in the Opera House Lobby & Gallery. And, donations can be made to honor other individuals or family members and have those names listed on the donor display as well.

For additional information, call 701-535-0347 or email jmmeid@hotmail.com

Benedictine Living Community Ellendale recognizes National Skilled Nursing Care Week

(Ellendale, ND) – Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, residents and staff at Benedictine Ellendale have demonstrated incredible strength and resilience. This year, National Skilled Nursing Care Week will recognize the commitment of skilled nursing care communities and their staff across the nation who work tirelessly to care for and protect the frail, elderly and disabled adults in long term care.

During National Skilled Nursing Care Week, May 9 – 15, Benedictine Ellendale's residents and employees will enjoy celebrating with carefully socially distanced activities such as ice cream floats and outdoor games.

"Working together, we are emerging from the worst of this pandemic. When we were required to close to visitors last year, our staff really stepped up to try and fill the void by providing extra comfort, compassion and friendship to our residents. While we knew we could not replace their family, we did our best to help our residents get through this difficult time," said Naomi Grueneich, executive director.

"We are so thankful for all our dedicated and creative staff, who truly sought to make the best of a challenging situation. And thank you to our residents, their families, community members and local businesses who were so supportive of our staff," Grueneich said.

"We remember and honor those affected by COVID-19 over the last year and hold them dear. We hope and pray for a brighter future. Together, we will get through this and heal."

"If you have a friend or loved one residing in a senior care community, we encourage you to reach out to them during this special week and let them know you care," Grueneich added. Cards, letters and phone calls are always welcomed.

A trusted provider of senior care services for more than 28 years, Benedictine Ellendale is accepting new residents for long-term skilled nursing care, short-term care and rehabilitation, independent living, assisted living, basic care, memory care, geri-psych needs, respite care and end-of-life care, with enhanced infection control protocols in place for residents and staff.

Cardinal Girls & Boys Win South Central Conference Track Meet

Giant Congratulations to the Cardinal Girls and Boys Track and Field Teams. Coach Troy Goehring and his assistants, Dan Girard, Lana Norton and Rich Reis, saw both the girls and boys teams win the South Central conference Track Meet that was held in Ellendale last Tuesday. Complete details and action photos are on pages 13 and 14 of this issue. *(Team photos by Christy Peterson)*

With Refurbished Range, 4H Archery Shoots Ahead

story & photos by Ken Smith

"This would be our seventh year. And the second year for shooting inside. Before that we had two years of Nibcos."

The hard work and generosity of those wanting to see a strong archery program has been amply rewarded this season. The two-dozen participants have done very well. Last Sunday their achievements were recognized with a table full of ribbons, medals and plaques. A full team picture, with the names of all the archers, will run in next week's *Leader.*

This would not have been possible without the refurbished building. Direcyor Travis Anliker, along with several dads discuss the progress at a practice last week while a line of bow-wielding youngsters lined up to send volleys of arrows into circular targets and mock game animals.

The "two years of Nibcos" refers to the many practices held before the interior of the west barn at the County Fairgrounds was refurbished and equipped with a modern heating and cooling system. Previously the group relied on portable kerosene burning heaters. "It's been good" said one of the dads, referring to the change. "It's great when it's 20 below outside and you come in here and it's nice and warm."

The building is the largest of its kind in the area, and it has a good location. The archery club uses it from October through April. During the other months, it's used for all sorts of 4-H and related events. It can also be rented for receptions and other special occasions.

Prior to the renovation, the building was little more than a solid steel shed with dark walls and a concrete floor. Now the walls are brightly finished, and shiny air ducts run beneath a ceiling whose odd angles and beams are hidden beneath a handsome coat of flat black paint. Full handicap-accessible bathrooms are on the west side, along with storage space behind attractive sliding wooden doors.

The entire project cost a little less than 90,000 dollars. "We fund raised for all of this," said Travis. "The school pitched in. We got a lot of community support." The fall calendar raffle was a big source of funds, and the Applefest pancake feed helped.

(Continued on page 13)

DICKEY COUNTY LEADER

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Fireside Decorations

by Ken Smith

Last year Peggy Gilbert asked us to examine and photograph the marvellous display of Christmas cheer that she and her staff had lovingly placed in the dining rooms of the Fireside Restaurant. The array was dazzling and even a little bit overwhelming, and provided scores of unique photos.

We did not have a chance to run a feature about these amazing decorations, but as the season approached this year, we wanted to make note of the creativity in the new displays. Due to COVID, only the two main dining areas were decorated this year. Peggy decided to focus mainly on the snowman theme, filling glistening trees with perhaps a hundred little snowmen, and also displaying several large Frostys. She also emphasized ice skates, a familiar and much cherished symbol of Christmas nostalgia (and one that still has great meaning, as can be seen in this week's ***Transitions*** column).

Having visited with Peggy and observed the beauty, we were once again impressed at the good fortune we all have for the way area residents have shown their Christmas spirit, with both indoor and outdoor displays. Our hope is that this spirit will shine through to (and from) all our readers during this unique Christmas season. ***Merry Christmas everyone!***

Ellendale Has a Postal Connection to Santa!

--Washington, DC (USPS) In more ways than one, this year has been a struggle for many. Thoughts of kids, the holidays and wondering how to provide for them may also be weighing heavily on many. But Santa and the Postal Service have come to help. The USPS Operation Santa program decided to celebrate its 108th year in 2020 by opening up for nationwide participation.

The Postal Service established the USPS Operation Santa program to help those in need at the holidays experience the joy of opening presents — and to create special holiday memories. Since it began, millions of less fortunate children and their families have been helped by the kindness of others. The program is for every person of every belief, or non-belief. The purpose is to help as many deserving families as possible. And that can only be done if good-hearted adopters step forward.

Hundreds of thousands of letters are written to the USPS Operation Santa program every year in hopes of being adopted by kind and generous people across the country. These letters are opened by Santa's Elves and, for safety reasons, all personally identifiable information of the letter writer is removed (i.e. last names, addresses, ZIP Codes) and uploaded to USPSOperationSanta.com for adoption.

While the Postal Service began receiving letters to Santa more than 108 years ago, it wasn't until 1912 that Postmaster General Frank Hitchcock authorized local Postmasters to allow postal employees and citizens to respond to them. This became known as Operation Santa. The complete history can be found online at the Postal Service Holiday Newsroom, along with additional news and information, including all domestic, international and military mailing and shipping deadlines. The Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.

Bryah Adam (in green) and Mada Flynn (in pink) prepare to mail their letters to Santa at the Ellendale Post Office. Each year, hundreds of thousands of letters to Santa from children and families arrive at post offices around the country.

CowBell Game was Postponed
It will be re-Scheduled

Rural Development Finance Corporation Awards Grants in DRN ReadiTech Area

On behalf of the Ellendale Lion's Club, Denise Olson, right, accepts the community grant donation from DRN ReadiTech's Marketing Manager Janell Hauck to assist with building costs for Ellendale's new dog park.

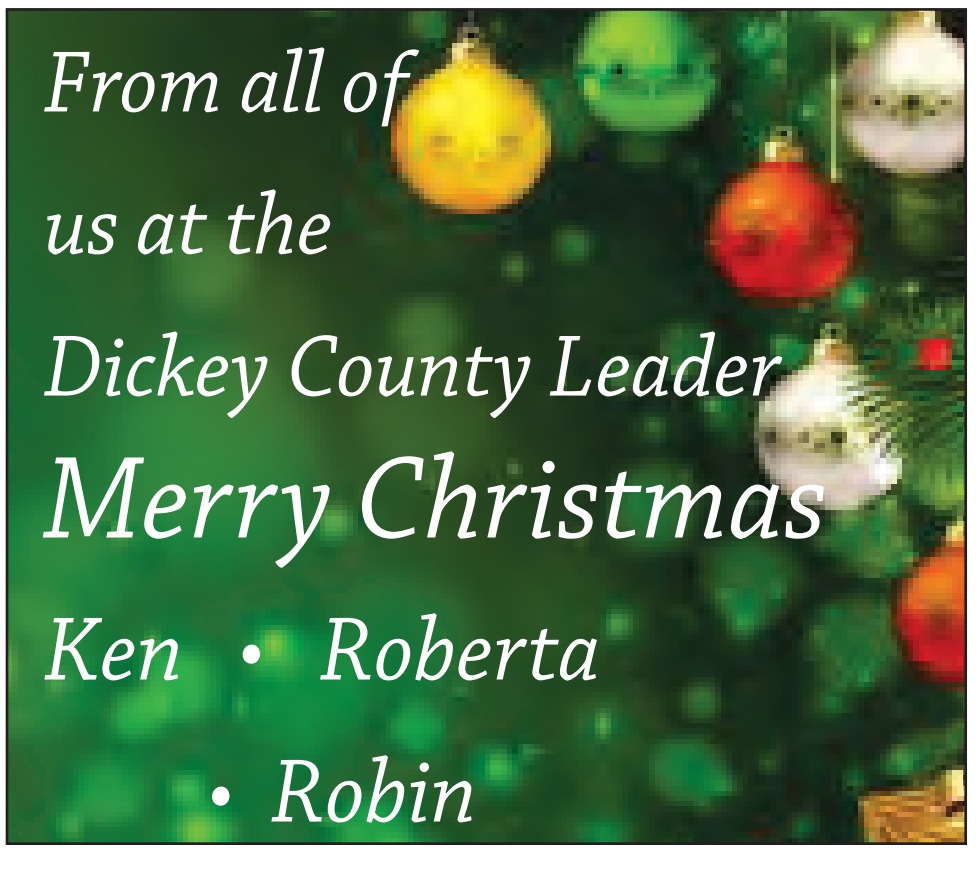
Ellendale, ND, —DRN ReadiTech is a member of the Rural Development Finance Corporation (RDFC). As a result, communities in the service area were eligible to apply for a grant of up to $2,000 to support community-owned entities, non-profits and community-based projects. Organizations in Ellendale, Fredonia and Kulm were recently selected for the grants.

RDFC chose the Ellendale's Lions Club as its first grant recipient. The club meets twice per month at the Fireside Restaurant; on the first Tuesday at noon and on the third Tuesday at 5:15 p.m. Visitors are always welcome. The grant funds will be used to help create a local dog park for the residents and guests of Ellendale.

The second RDFC grant was awarded to the Clifford Ost Post 260 in Fredonia. Many small towns in the Midwest often name the local post after one of its fallen. Of the hundreds of young men serving from Logan County, Clifford Ost was the first to give his life during World War II. The grant funds will be used to replace the shingles on the roof of the Legion Hall.

The final RDFC grant went to Kulm Friendship Club Senior Center. The grant funds will be used to replace the kitchen floor and interior or general repairs at the Senior Citizen Center.

RDFC is making these funds available in order that more people become aware of their larger loan program that funds community-based projects and non-profit entities with low interest loans. For an application, assistance, or questions concerning RDFC, please contact Lori Capouch at 701-667-6444 or lcapouch@ndarec.com.



Wall Completed, Master Mason Talks Buildings, Vocation

With the completion of this project, (above) the entire rear of the Opera House has been rebuilt. Josh Larson (above) has put up all sorts of buildings, including new strip malls and shopping centers, but he has a special affection for old, historic buildings like the Opera House.

Story & Photos by Ken Smith

"Seeing the work you did is the best part. The work's not easy but at the end of the day you can drive around and say 'I built that one, and I built that one.' The work stays around longer than you will."

--Josh Larson

The contractor who replaced the wall on the back of the Ellendale Opera House spent about 45 minutes with the *Leader* last week. He talked about buildings and materials, about Ellendale and other towns in North Dakota, and about what he does as the head of Larson Masonry. Josh Larson and his crew came to Ellendale in early November and went right to work. Having first disassembled the old wall bit by bit, they placed the last block in the new wall on Friday, Dec. 11. After the cold-weather protective sheathing was removed that afternoon, a massive grey block wall stood where a cracking and crumbling assemblage of brick and clay and mortar had been. The building's problem had been fixed. The new structure was as straight as a string, even to a careful eye. It was a welcome contrast to what it replaced.

Though he was critical of the original design and materials used on the rear wall, Josh was impressed with the high quality of the 112-year old brickwork on the building's three other sides. The back had a 12-inch combination of open-centered clay tile blocks, with cheap brick on the outside. "It looks," he said, "like they just threw whatever junk they had laying around at the project." That might have been just to save money. "Or maybe they had plans for expanding out from the back." Regardless of its inadequacies, the old wall had stood for well over a century. With the new wall in place, the building is good, O.P.E.R.A.'s architect has said, for at least another century.

After cleaning up the work site, Josh and his crew stayed around to assist Doug Muckey of Muckey Concrete Products with repair work at Starion Bank. Early in 2020, a small car lurched across the sidewalk, damaging a row of massive sandstone blocks beneath the Bank's east front windows. As Josh explained, two of the blocks were damaged beyond use, so matching replacements—made in a mold from a special concrete blend—have been ordered. Josh said he'd be back to Ellendale in January to get the blocks in place and help finish the project. Josh and Doug are longtime friends, both with lots of concrete and masonry experience. The Bank repair presented an unusual case, which made Josh's particular expertise valuable.

During his time with the *Leader*, Josh stepped away from work at the Bank to visit the Coleman Museum. The Museum is housed in the former Farmers National Bank, erected in 1909. Josh was impressed by the quality of the archway and the brickwork at the front. He showed a few minor masonry fixes that need to be performed. He also offered some insights about what lies at the base of the entrance archway columns. Their massive concrete footings can be seen in the basement.

(continued on page 3)

Frosty & Friends

Wishing everyone a merry Christmas, Ellendale's Christmas characters pause for a photo following the Parade of Lights, which was held last Saturday, December 19.

From left to right are the Elf (Jolene Maunu), Anton Geller, Arabelle Geller, Santa (Brandon Gunn), Laken Geller, Frosty (Sam Haase) and The Grinch (Megan Weibe).

For more photos, and details on this special annual event, See page 11.

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BE A WINNER!

It's exciting! Ticket sales for the Ellendale Area Community Foundation Raffle are continuing until Saturday, December 5. Though there will be no Raffle Wrap-Up Event this year, your chances to win will be the same as always.

Ticket purchasers are eligible to win great prizes, including $4100 in cash prizes, guns, and other great prizes from local business donors. See the ad on a following page to see all the great prizes.

You can be a winner along with the Ellendale area! Prize winners will be drawn on December 5th beginning at 8:00pm. Winners will be contacted following the drawings and listed on the Granary Facebook page. They will also be listed in an upcoming edition of the Dickey County Leader.

You can purchase tickets now at Starion Bank, Dakota Plains Credit Union, Choice Bank, Mertz Lumber & Supply, Dickey County Abstract and The Granary.

Support the Foundation and the many grant recipients that benefit the Ellendale area. Get your tickets today!

AVERA CLINIC LIMITED HOURS

As the region continues to see an increase in patients with COVID-19, Avera St. Luke's is taking additional measures in its surge plan. This includes some changes at the Avera Clinic of Ellendale as of Monday, November 23.

The Clinic will be open normal hours

(Monday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)

Personal at the clinic will change as some will be called to duty in Aberdeen at their Avera Clinic

Patients of the clinic and community residents should still seek medical care when necessary. Call for Appointments 349-3666.

MDU Adds Support to Restoration Project

Ellendale Opera House North Wall Re-Construction
SPONSOR: O.P.E.R.A., Inc. – Organization of People in Ellendale for Restoration of the Arts
ARCHITECT: Michael J. Burns Architects, Moorhead, MN
STRUCTURAL ENGINEER: Sandman Structural Engineers, Moorhead, MN
CONTRACTOR: Naseth Construction, Inc., West Fargo, ND
BUILDING OUR FUTURE & PRESERVING OUR PAST
USDA
United States Department of Agriculture
Financed by United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development

Last week Justin Meidinger (left), President of O.P.E.R.A., received a $4,000 check from Montana-Dakota Utilities from MDU representative Scott Wertz (right). The money will go in the construction fund. The back wall of the Opera House is currently being rebuilt from the ground up, thanks to the generous giving on the part of many organizations and individuals, and significant help from the USDA.

Exterior work began November 9. Brick-by-brick disassembly of the wall took nearly two weeks. As seen at right, the open portion of the building has been wrapped to maintain consistent temperatures that will allow the block to be laid properly. Work under the shroud wa commencing on the Monday after Thanksgiving and is slated to be complete by Christmas.

Architects and engineers who have planned the project say that after it is complete the building "will be solid for the next 100 years."

We walk on starry fields of white, and do not see the daisies; for blessings common in our sight, we rarely offer praises.

We sigh for some supreme delight, to crown our lives with splendor, and quite ignore our daily store of pleasures sweet and tender.

Our cares are bold and push their way upon our thought and feeling, they hang about us all the day,our time from pleasure stealing.

So unobtrusive many a joy we pass by and forget it, but worry strives to own our lives, and conquers if we let it.

There's not a day in all the year but holds some hidden pleasure, and looking back, joys oft appear to brim the past's wide measure.

But blessings are like friends, I hold, who love and labor near us. We ought to raise our notes of praise while living hearts can hear us.

--Ella Wheeler Wilcox

Thanksgiving Flowers Bless Resident Homes, Offices

"We want to say a huge 'THANK YOU' to all those who so generously donated money and/or time to this flower project." Nola Schweitz of Prairie Floral was elated as she joined Sheriff Chris Estes last Monday morning to deliver Thanksgiving-themed flower arrangements to five local destinations.

Nola's white minivan, loaded with color, unloaded dozens of flower bundles at Prince of Peace and Evergreen, enough for each resident and each staff member. They also visited the offices at the Dickey County Health District, the Public School, and then the town's two clinics. Each place received the arrangements warmly.

Nola came up with the idea for the floral gifts several weeks ago. To fund the project, a call for donations in the form of five-dollar "scholarships" went out in the November 12 and 19 editions of the *Leader*. The response was immediate. Initially, Nola was thinking mainly of Thanksgiving and Christmas, but donations surged and the project was extended to upcoming holidays. "Right now" she said gratefully, donors "have given enough to cover flowers for thanksgiving, Christmas, and Valentines, and made a good start on Easter."

Anyone who would like to help further this project, is invited to stop in at Prairie Floral and Gifts, or mail a check (125 Main Street Ellendale ND 58436), or call the shop at 701-349-4004. "We will keep going," said Nola, "as long as donations keep coming in."

November 18

November 24

Local Ministers Offer Inspirational Thoughts in a Difficult Year

Last week the *Leader* asked area ministers to "offer a paragraph or two of insight and/or encouragement, or perhaps a Scripture that would be meaningful now." The idea was that 2020 has been such an unusual year, with so many unusual stresses, that most of us could use a little bit of this. Many families were unable to gather for the traditional Thanksgiving because of the coronavirus. We have lost many persons, especially elders, and there is little certainty of what the coming weeks and months will hold.

Responses came quickly. First in line was Rev. Barbara Krumm, who serves the Presbyterian United Methodist Church. The second response was from Father Jason Asselin of St. Helena's Catholic Church & St. Patrick's in Fullerton. Pastor Kelly Riggan of the Ellendale Church of the Nazarene submitted a piece which appears on page 8. We are grateful for all of these responses. The PUMC cross (center) and the steeple at St. Helena's are graphic reminders of the faith that continues to sustain families and individuals in both easy and difficult times.

"2020 Versus the Holidays," by Pastor Barbara Krumm

What do you know, they came! The Holidays! They came!

Thanksgiving is happening right now. Turkeys are being stuffed and pumpkin pies are being baked. And Christmas is happening too; Christmas trees can be spied through the open shades of the houses we pass by and people are braving the wind and the cold in order to make their house and yard festive.

Yep, there is no doubt about it the Holidays came; they are here. The Grinch couldn't keep Christmas from coming, even though he took away everything he thought was Christmas. Likewise 2020, with all its problems could not keep Christmas or Thanksgiving from coming.

2020, like the Grinch, might have taken some things away from us. We might not have all the bells and whistles we are used to having during the Holidays. So we must be like the people in Whoville, who woke up on Christmas morning with their houses stripped bare of all decorations, even the tree with all the presents, even the cupboards and refrigerators empty of food. They joined hands and with smiles on their faces and sparkles in their eyes they sang "*Welcome Christmas while we stand, heart to heart and hand in hand*!"

The Grinch pondered. How can the people of Whovillw celebrate with no tree, no presents, no Who pudding and no Who roast beast? *"He puzzled and puzzled till his puzzler was sore. Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before. Maybe Christmas, he thought . . . doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas, perhaps . . .means a little bit more!"*

2020 with all of its issues could not take the Holidays away from us because the Holidays *mean a little bit more*. Actually the Holidays mean *a whole lot more*!

We can celebrate Thanksgiving because we have a sovereign God who loves us, supplies for all our needs and cares about all of our wants, and knows what is best for us. Philippians 4:6-7 tells us to *"be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."*

And we can celebrate Christmas because God loved us so much that He sent His Only Begotten Son Jesus to die for us; conquering sin and death and restoring us to full fellowship and peace with God. Listen to the message of the angels to the shepherds the night Jesus was born.

"Do not be afraid," was the proclamation, *"for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!'"*

I pray that these words from God to you will help you to conquer all the issues 2020 has thrown at you, so you can truly be thankful to God for all His blessings and truly celebrate the birth of His Son Jesus Christ.

Will the Holidays Ever be the Same? by Pastor Jason Asselin

Undoubtedly the COVID pandemic has changed our plans more than once this year. Will the holidays ever be the same? Yes, no, maybe . . . perhaps all the above! If your thoughts tend towards maybe, then a few more questions should be asked. *What is the purpose of a holiday anyway? What do you love about holiday celebrations? What things do you dislike?* Take a moment to write down the best and worst things about the holidays for you.

For many families, Thanksgiving and Christmas will not be the same in 2020. The loss of a loved one, family tragedies, or the difficult decisions to cancel family get-togethers. Indeed, the virus has left its mark, and sometimes this mark is permanent.

Despite the real difficulties of this pandemic, I am here to offer a light of hope and a ray of brightness that is undimmed by worldly disappointments. I cannot shake from my thoughts this passage from Luke's Gospel: Mary travels in haste to visit her cousin Elizabeth, *"When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit"* (Luke 1:39-41).

Take a moment to ponder and to rest in this Biblical scene. Mary and Elizabeth are both pregnant in "difficult" circumstances. The challenges faced by these holy women did not stop the light of Truth from shining. This light radiates through extraordinary circumstances. This light is Jesus Christ. Mary's visit to Elizabeth becomes a visit from God to his people.

The conclusion of this passage is also insightful. *"Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home"* (Luke 1:56). By an unofficial calculation, we have remained in the time-warp called COVID for three times that length!

What happens in this world is sometimes beyond our control. This Scripture passage teaches us how to answer our initial question in the affirmative—YES! The holidays can be filled with joy. Especially when we carry Jesus into our gatherings, when we take the time to simply be with others. We should imitate the patience and care of Mary—then, we too, can bring Christ into difficult times.

So, this year some practical advice to help brighten the holidays. First, we ourselves must welcome the light of Christ into our life. Elizabeth opened her door to Mary, and Jesus was the hidden guest. To bring Christ to others we should consider the following things: make time for that overdue phone call, write a letter, give a gift, or lend a helping hand. Our Savior came into the darkness of the world to bring His eternal light of hope.

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Anton Carruth & Adam Nitschke All-Region Football Team
- Paulson, Mathern, R. Moch and W. Moch Honorable Mention

Adam Nitschke

Anton Carruth

Jorgan Paulson

Paxton Mathern

Rhett Moch

Wyatt Moch

Region 1 Football awards were announced last week along with Thunder Football awards.

Congratulations to Anton Carruth and Adam Nitschke for being named to the All-Region 1 Football 1st team. Honorable Mention honors went to Jorgan Paulson, Paxton Mathern, Wyatt Moch and Rhett Moch.

Thunder team awards, voted on by the players were: Offensive MVP – Adam Nitschke, Defensive MVP – Rhett Moch, Special teams MVP – Carl Tjernlund, Practice player of the year – Nick Seefeld, Rookie of the Year – Isaiah Carruth.

Congratulations to all Thunder players!

Photos by Joy Powers

Governor's Executive Order on COVID-19 Mitigation

This is an abbreviated Version of Order 2020-43, issued Saturday, November 14. A full version can be accessed at bit.ly/exorder11-14

Doug Burgum, Governor of North Dakota, by virtue of the authority under Article V, Section 1 of the North Dakota Constitution and North Dakota Century Code 37-17.1,in consultation with the State Health Officer and the co-leaders of Unified Command, hereby orders:

1. Banquets, Ballrooms, Weddings and Event Venues:

a. Effective November 16, 2020, occupancy of banquet, ballroom and event venues is limited to 25% of occupancy not to exceed the capacity limits identified within the ND Smart Restart Large Gathering Tiered Capacity document.

b. Event organizers are encouraged to provide a health plan to their local elected leaders and local public health units for review.

c. Food and beverage service must be provided to seated patrons; no "stand-up" service, or service to patrons in a waiting area is permitted;

d. Dance areas must be closed;

e. Seating arrangements and tables must allow at least six feet of physical distance between individual parties;

f. As required under State Health Officer Order 2020-08, face coverings must be worn by all owners, managers and employees at all times; face coverings must be worn by all patrons except when consuming food or beverages;

g. Post signs in conspicuous public areas of the establishment that:

i. Display face covering and physical distancing requirements;

ii. Include symptoms of COVID-19;

iii. Instruct anyone experiencing symptoms to stay at home.

h. Religious events, governmental meetings and academic instructional delivery settings are exempt from this order. Religious organizations are strongly encouraged to utilize COVID-19 mitigation strategies from the ND Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control.

i. Banquets, ballrooms and other event venues operated under Tribal Code or Tribal ordinance are exempt from this order, but are strongly encouraged to utilize the COVID-19 mitigation strategies from the ND Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control.

j. More restrictive measures may be adopted by local government entities.

2. Bars, Restaurants and Food Service Establishments.

a. Effective November 16, 2020, occupancy of bars, restaurants and food service establishments is limited to 50% of the licensed seating capacity, not to exceed a maximum of 150 patrons;

b. Food and beverage service must be provided to seated patrons; no "stand-up" service or service to patrons in a waiting area is permitted;

c. Seating arrangements and tables must allow at least six feet of physical distance between individual parties;

d. As required under State Health Officer Order 2020-08, face coverings must be worn by owners, managers and employees at all times; face coverings must be worn by all patrons except when consuming food or beverages;

e. In-person dining and service may be conducted between the hours of 4:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m.;

f. Take-out, curbside and delivery services may continue to be provided with no time or hour restrictions;

g. Post signs in conspicuous public areas of the establishment that:

i. Display face covering and physical distancing requirements;

ii. Include symptoms of COVID-19;

iii. Instruct anyone experiencing symptoms to stay at home.

h. Bars, restaurants and food service establishments operated under Tribal Code or

i. More restrictive measures may be adopted by local government entities.

3. School and Community Activities .

a. Effective 12:01 a.m. November 16, 2020 all high school winter sports and all association, community, and club sports for youth and adults are suspended until December 14, 2020;

b. Effective 12:01 a.m. November 16, 2020 all other extracurricular K-12 school activities, competitions and non-school related activities are suspended until December 14, 2020;

c. North Dakota High School Activities Association sponsored playoff championship contests and performance events previously scheduled during the month of

November may continue following the NDHSAA requirements;

d. Collegiate and intercollegiate activities must follow all guidance issued by the

North Dakota University System and respective national organizations;

e. Religious activities are exempt.

This order is issued on the following bases and for the following reasons:

1. The Governor is vested with the executive authority pursuant to Article V, Section 1, of the North Dakota Constitution.

2. The Governor is vested with statutory authority to issue executive orders, to minimize or avert the effects of a disaster or emergency pursuant to Chapter 37-17.1 of the North Dakota Century Code.

3. Executive Orders have the force and effect of law under NDCC § 37-17.1-05 (2).

4. A coordinated and effective effort of appropriate government departments is required to

minimize the impact of emergencies and disasters in this state.

5. All local, county and state law enforcement officers are authorized and directed to enforce the provisions of this Executive Order.

This Order shall remain in effect until 11:59 p.m. Sunday, December 13, 2020.

Executed at the State Capitol in Bismarck, North Dakota, this 13th day of November, 2020.

CounterAct Builds Bonds Between Youngsters & Community

A cheerful 5th Grade class provided a good example of masking while displaying their certificates from last week's CounterAct class. front (l-r) Janice Tucker, Maximus Lematta, Macyn Glynn, Gage Miller, York Freier; middle (l-r) Deputy Lucas Van Zee, Kinsey Middlestead, Taeya Sayler, Liam Glynn, Devin Olson, Charlie Niva, Wesley Cotter, Sephra Wurtz; back (l-r) Ms. Hiles, Audrey Fuher, Micah Girard, Elisha Meyers, Kailey Tulp, Kiera Lott, Jaeger Sand, Carly Kuntz, Police Chief Brad Knutson

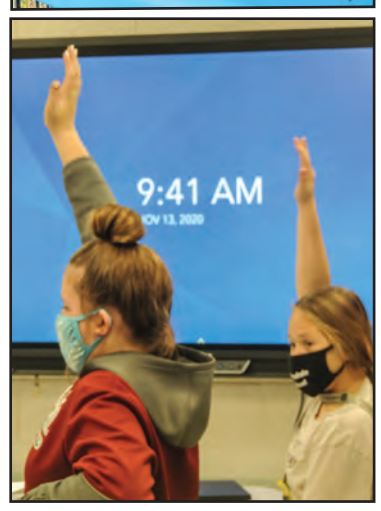
"It's not really hard to say no to somebody," said Police Chief Brad Knutson to Mrs. Hiles' fifth graders

Several groups of kids had just acted out skits in which they responded properly to requests to join with others in bad behavior. Grins and a few giggles were evident beneath the masks, but it was evident that the kids took the lesson seriously.

It was part of the CounterAct program, which each year, brings police officers together with elementary kids to give them pointers on dealing with drugs, alcohol, violence, and other dangerous or illegal behavior.

CounterAct's goal is to get youngsters to think about consequences of certain activities. It also builds a connection with the local law enforcement officials, helping them understand policeman as their protectors and friends, not just authority figures in uniforms. In the process, lessons are learned that help the youngsters better understand their community and grow to be a productive part of it.

Judging by the cooperation and warm interaction (including some friendly joking) between all the kids and adults in the room during the final session (Friday Nov. 13), the week's lessons look like a success.



Wall Rebuild Project Underway

"We have to take it apart the way it was put up. Brick by brick."

Josh Larson of Larson Masonry was looking up, watching two of his crewmen, in a boxed platform at the end of a telehandler. The workers were using small masonry drills to remove, one by one, the bricks that make up the back wall of the opera house. They had just ascended again after dropping a small load of bricks on top of a growing rubble pile inside the caution tape in the alley.

This particular wall, Josh explained, is quite different from the other walls of the Opera House. "It's made out of a different kind of bricks, and they were laid in a different way." Josh speculated that a different contractor may have put up the back wall.

While it does seem that cost cutting was a factor when the Opera House was built back in 1907-1908, the real reason for the wall's poor condition has to do with water damage that goes back several decades. Josh said he works on countless masonry buildings with similar problems—most of them in Fargo, Valley City or Grand Forks—and the pattern is the same. "Once the top goes, water gets in the wall" and the problems begin. The freeze/thaw cycle, which is frequent and intense in our region, tends to pry the bricks apart and can destabilize a wall and potentially an entire structure.

Josh said he has traveled in the Middle East and has enjoyed examining buildings that are many centuries old. With their very mild weather patterns, many of these buildings seem to barely age at all. Structures that are well cared for last a *long, long time.* Even in North Dakota, Josh added, "masonry buildings will just about last forever" if water is kept out.

Much to the relief of those who have worked hard and contributed generously to restoring the Opera House, the structural experts who laid out the plans for the current restoration found that the problems do not extend to the foundation. After disassembly is complete--probably by the time this paper goes to press--the back will be lined with scaffolding, and workers will be slowly and steadily assembling a new wall of sturdy, straight, 12-inch concrete blocks. For the folks from Larson Masonry and Naseth Construction, it's a slow but familiar process.

The *Leader* will provide updates until the project is done.

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Trunk-r-Treat On Main Street Saturday, October 31st

Submitted article

your help is needed! This Halloween will mark the 4th annual Ellendale community Trunk-r-Treat. The first three years the event was held in the parking lot of the Church of the Nazarene, but with all of the craziness of 2020 so far we wanted to make this event extra special for the kids and have it be as safe as possible. This is where we need the community's help, this year we are moving the Trunk-r-Treat from the parking lot to Main Street.

We would like to invite everyone in the community to join us on Halloween from 5-7 p.m. to set up a trunk, van, or back of a pick-up and allow the kids in the community to come and trick-r-treat from car to car. We want to make this clear, this is not limited to people who are part of the churches hosting the event or one of the businesses on Main Street, this invitation is for the entire community to get involved and make trick-r-treating 2020 something special!

The designated two blocks of Main Street will be blocked off beginning at 4:30 p.m. Saturday, October 31st to allow for a time to set up your trunk, van, or truck. Our goal is to fill the entire 2 blocks with cars, all the way from 281 east to in front of Evergreen Place. To help us in making plans for how and where to park vehicles, please call the church office at 349-3833 or send us an email at **ellnaz@drtel.net**. For more information check out Ellendale Church of the Nazarene Facebook page or feel free to email or call the office.

Starion Bank Donated Funds Toward PPE

The recent rise in COVID-19 infections has created a need for an abundance of precautions. Among them are masks and gloves. Starion Bank in Ellendale donated $250 to Ellendale Public School to purchase personal protective equipment (PPE). The school used the funds to purchase face coverings for staff and students.

Ellendale Public School THANKS Starion Bank for their donation.

Superintendent Michael Kaiser is shown (left) receiving the donation from Aaron Tschosik (right) of Starion Bank.

Submitted Photo

Masks Required At EPS

This new graphic has greeted visitors to the Ellendale Public School website recently. Details are always available at **www.ellendale.k12.nd.us**

A mask mandate for students and staff was approved unanimously in a special school board session on October 8, 2020. Michele Thorpe, one of Ellendale's leading health experts, made the motion.

On Friday, October 16, Governor Burgum's office released a new sick level chart (see above). Levels are as follows:

- Critical (red): Non-essential businesses closed.
- High (orange): 25% occupancy with a cap of 50 people (changed from non-essential businesses closed); encourage businesses to require face coverings.
- Moderate (yellow): 50% occupancy with a cap of 100 people (down from 250); encourage businesses to require face coverings.
- Low (green): 75% occupancy with a cap of 200 people (down from 50).
- New Normal (blue): operate as usual.

Funding, Plans set for Wall Rebuilding

Story & photo by Ken Smith

O.P.E.R.A. President Justin Meidinger, along with Ranetta Starr and Isaac Yturralde, both USDA Rural Development Loan specialists from the Valley City office, survey the rear of the building on October 16. Ranetta and Isaac ensured that everything is in order, finance-wise, for the wall demolition and rebuilding project to begin.

"When we were first investigating this we seriously thought there was a foundation issue. And if it would have been a foundation issue," said architect Kerry Peuser in a Zoom conference Thursday October 16, "it would have been a whole different level of trouble." Peuser, an associate of Michael J, Burns Architecture LTD of Fargo, is well familiar with the Opera House, having assisted with projects there going back for years. "We're really grateful," he added, "that what we found was more easily addressed than what we were thinking."

Justin Meidinger, president of O.P.E.R.A., expressed a happy response. Fixing the back wall of the Opera House building has occupied his mind for months. Justin, who puts in long hours in his own contracting business, has worked steadily along with O.P.E.R.A. board members and consultants to line up the finances needed to commence the $200,000 repair job. A year ago, the ongoing fundraising efforts had been geared toward restoring the storefronts adjacent to the lobby. But when a crack opened up on the back wall, priorities shifted.

Now, after many meetings and consultations, and the completion of a stream of paperwork, the ducks are in a row for the repairs, which are to begin this month and be completed by mid-December. A recent fund drive, spearheaded by Ellendale native and philanthropist Greg Gackle, was completed successfully thanks to generous donations of all different amounts. The boad is grateful for the support shown.

The October 16 Zoom conference, held in the Opera House lobby, was originally planned to be an open public meeting with a "ribbon cutting" type of ceremony initiating the repair project. COVID-19 concerns interfered, and the two key in-person guests, loan specialists from the USDA office in Valley City, wore masks during the consultation.

The board members and guests, and online participants (including Gackle) went down checklists to finalize details about nearly every part of the repair project, beginning with finances and concluding with public safety measures for the construction period.

The conclusion of the meeting brought smiles to board members who were present. "It is going to happen within my lifetime," said Jeanette Ruenz, referring to her long-held vision of seeing the building brought back to fully functional condition.

"This is necessary step," said Gackle. "We wish we could spend [these funds] on more visible things like the storefronts." But, he said, this project "will get it rehabilitated to the point where it is solid for another hundred years."

Cooperation & Resourceful use of Buildings Marks History of Ellendale Churches

by Ken Smith

"We have 12 churches" said a waitress to two lady customers at a lunch counter, both adorned in fashionable hats and both smiling at the thought that a small town like Ellendale would have such diversity. "Sure," replied the lady in the beanie-shaped hat, "Ellendale's for everybody."

The cartoon appeared in the 1954 edition of the *Snitcher* yearbook, the annual publication of the State Normal and Industrial College. Boyd Blumer, who drew the cartoon (see p. 2), was pointing to an interesting but often overlooked fact about small towns in the Midwest: while their religious organizations were shaped overwhelmingly by Christianity, those towns often have a great deal of diversity in terms of how they understand the specifics of their faith. The different denominations had much in common, but they had—and still have—real differences as well. Looking at how they interacted with one another can reveal a lot about the nature and the character of a community.

The renewal of the local Seventh-Day Adventist congregation in their own building, the church at 400 Main, which they purchased early this year, is a good reminder of this diversity. It also offers a chance to look back at a little slice of the history of the many congregations that have flourished in Ellendale. Time has, of course, brought many changes. Some of them are gone, some have merged, and many are flourishing still. Though few if any congregations would equate the term "church" simply with a building (emphasizing instead the people who gather for worship), looking at the history of those buildings can reveal a lot about the community. One place to begin is to consider the stately brick building near the east end of Main Street where local Adventists now meet.

The church at 400 Main was built 104 years ago. It was dedicated just two weeks before Christmas, 1916. The dedication came near the end of an extremely challenging year for Ellendale. No sooner had springtime cheered residents' moods than a mighty fire cut a huge swath through the middle of town. On the evening of May 9, 1916, a fast wind whipped up, spreading embers from a trash fire. By morning, the city had been transformed. Every business on the north side of the main block of Main Street was leveled. On the south side, no buildings were standing between the First National Bank and City Hall. Most of the homes on 1st street south were likewise incinerated. Nobody was killed, but as recorded in Ellendale's 125th Anniversary history book, "21 families were left homeless and three blocks of business places lay in ruins, the loss running over $400,000."

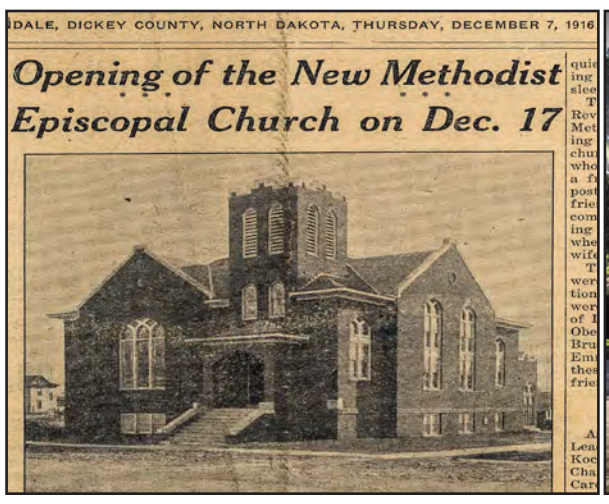
The Methodist Episcopal church building was intact, right where it had been built in 1883. It was located a block south of Starion Bank on a dirt road that is now Highway 281. It was a squarish, bungalow-style wooden building. Its northwest corner was graced with a steeple-shaped cupola that sheltered a large church bell. It was one of the oldest churches in town, having been built within two years Ellendale's 1882 founding. But in the 1910s the Methodist congregation felt the need for a new and larger place to worship. Coincidentally, a new building project was underway when the 1916 fire struck. And so, in a remarkably kind gesture, the elders of the Methodist Church reached out to their neighboring Baptist church.

"Dear Sir" began an open letter from G.W. Cooper of the Methodist Church board, printed in the *Leader* just weeks after the fire:

"I beg you to allow me some of your valuable space to make an appeal to the people of Ellendale for the united welfare of the Christian churches. We deeply sympathize with the Baptist people in the loss of their church building, which was undoubtedly the best church building in the city, and we shall be glad if necessary to help them secure a new church.

"I have discussed the matter with officials of the Methodist church, and we gladly offer to put a baptistry in the new church and ask them to worship with us, and to use the church and all its appointments for Sunday School or other purposes. They might hold their auxiliary organizations and institutions separate if they so desire.

"While making no demands for contributions for construction, in return for what they might offer we shall be glad to extend to them such help in like amount and kind when the opportunity offers."


DALE, DICKEY COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1916

Opening of the New Methodist Episcopal Church on Dec. 17

"It is a beautiful structure built of hard-faced brick. The stained glass windows are of exceptional beauty. . . . The furniture and pews are massive, the interior decorations are of the best, and show excellent taste . . . . The main part of the building is well arranged so that the gallery and class rooms may be closed off from the auditorium or thrown open, making one large room with a seating capacity of 550 people.

"The city has a right to be proud of the church and our Methodist friends are glad that they now have a building much better fitted for their needs, and which will enable them to helpfully co-operate with the other churches and other institutions in the city in quickening, purifying, and enriching the moral life of the community."

-- Dickey County Leader, commenting on the new Methodist Church Bulding, Dec.14, 1916.

*(**continued on page 3**)*

DICKEY COUNTY LEADER

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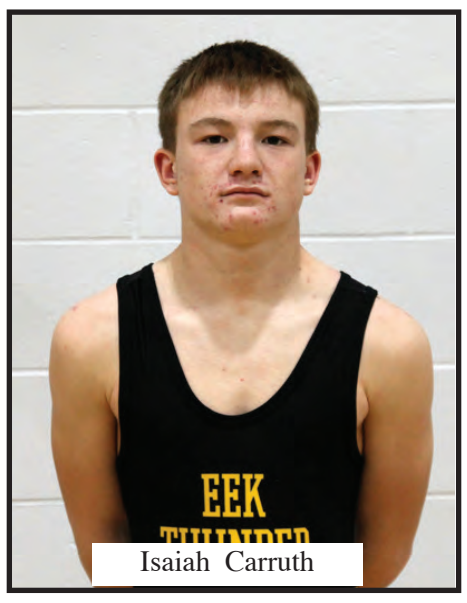
I. Carruth, A. Carruth, W. Moch E. Carruth, B. Mathern, E. Ellingson & R. Moch HEAD TO STATE



Isaiah Carruth

Anton Carruth

Wyatt Moch

Ethan Carruth

Bridger Mathern

Ethan Ellingson

Rhett Moch

Thunder is sending 7 wrestlers to the State Tournament this week in Fargo. Congratulations to Isaiah Carruth (120 lbs), Anton Carruth (145 lbs), Wyatt Moch (160 lbs), Ethan Carruth (182 lbs), Bridger Mathern (195 lbs), Ethan Ellingson (220 lbs) and Rhett Moch (285 lbs). EEK, as a team placed 4th at the Regional Tournament last Saturday. See all results on page 13.

(Mug shots by Patty Wood-Bartle of the Edgeley Mail)

GO THUNDER

Maud Evans Saddle Club hosted the 2019 South Central Horse Show Association Awards Party

Submitted Article and Photo

The Maud Evans Saddle Club hosted the 2019 South Central Horse Show Association awards party on Sunday, January 26th, at the Fireside Restaurant in Ellendale. The award winners were:

Child's Division: Shaya Steinwand (RRR)-Child's Showmanship at Halter; Sadie Syversen (RRR)-6 & Under Lead-line; Eva Merkel (ME)-6 & Under Lead-line; Nevaeh Horner (DS)-Walk/Trot 11 & Under; Elli Lloyd (RRR)-Child's Pleasure, Child's Trail, Child's Keyhole, Child's Barrels, Child's Pole Bending, Child's Ring Race

Jr Division: Alea Steinwand (RRR)-Jr Showmanship at Halter, Jr Barrels, Jr Ring Race; Macy Robert (RRR)-Jr Pleasure, Youth Reining, Jr Trail, Jr Pole Bending; Gracie Syversen (RRR)-Jr Pleasure, Youth Reining, Jr Keyhole

Ladies' Division: Patsy Schlosser (RRR)-Sr Showmanship at Halter, 3 & Over Mares, Sr Reining; Tara Mertz-Hack (ME)-3 & Over Geldings, Walk/Trot 12 & Over; Julie Forsman (RRR)-Ladies Pleasure, Adult Trail; Shayna Mertz (ME)-Adult Keyhole; Dacey Jensen (ME)-Ladies' Barrels, Adult Ring Race; Chelsey Horner (DS)-Ladies' Pole Bending

Men's Division: Neal Schlosser (RRR)-2 & Under Mares

Garry Mertz (ME)-2 & Under Stallions/Geldings, Green Broke Pleasure, Men's Pleasure, Men's Barrels; Neal Berntson (RRR)-2 to 3 year old Reining; David Geier (RRR)-Men's Pole Bending

Dave Just (DS)-Adult Keg Roping

High Point Winners: Elli Lloyd (RRR), Macy Robert (RRR), Patsy Schlosser (RRR), Garry Mertz (ME)

Total Club Points: Dakota Saddle-116, Maud Evans-212, Triple R Coteau-638:

Congratulations to all the award winners! It was a great season, even with the rain difficulties. We hope everyone is looking forward to the 2020 season.

2020 Tourism Grant Recipients Announced *--Ellendale Opera House --*

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Commerce recently announced nine recipients of 2020 Tourism Main Street Expansion Grants.

Justin Meidinger and the board members of Ellendale's O.P.E.R.A. were pleased to receive a grant to upgrade the entryway and expand access for the disabled at the Ellendale Opera House. The award comes just as a major ground floor/frontage rehabilitation project is about to get underway. Details on that project will be forthcoming in the *Leader*.

Main Street Expansion Grants support new or expanding businesses and activities that provide an improved visitor experience, with an emphasis on attracting new visitors to North Dakota communities.

"These grants will help communities develop or enhance vibrant downtowns and draw visitors to enjoy unique architecture, local culture and diverse activities," North Dakota Tourism Director Sara Otte Coleman said.

The grants are intended to fund new projects that attract visitors from outside of North Dakota for at least one overnight stay with the goal of giving communities and the state another experience to entertain visitors and potential new residents.

To get an idea of the variety of projects that receive Tourism grants, here is a rundown. Cavalier recieved funds to install a bike sharing system on Main Street and at nearby Icelandic State Park. The Garrison Improvement Association got funding to create a downtown multi-use facility and pocket park. Discover Jamestown Tourism receved a grant for reconstruction of its authentic frontier Army site camping experience at Fort Seward. The City of Wahpeton got moneys for a venue to house a collection of 50,000 pencils, create a historical research center and enhance its collecton of artifacts. The McHenry County Western Museum received a grant for the rehabilitation of the future McHenry County Western Museum.

The Clubhouse in Hillsboro was funded for a golf simulator and recreation and entertainment destination. Shepherd Industries of Nome was given resources to renovate an old schoolhouse for use as bed and breakfast, art space and retreat center. Chasing Horses Community Gift Shof in Medora received help to purchase a 13-passenger van for group photography tours into Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

Wings Game is A Hit with Starion Guests

Friday evening, Feb. 7, an Aberdeen Wings Hockey Bus pulled into the Fireside parking lot. It was soon filled with busily chatting and smiling people on their way to the event of the week: a contest on the ice between the home team and the Minot Minotauros. The passengers were guests of Starion Bank, the main sponsor of the evening's game.

"We like to host events like this for our customers," said Starion President Don Morgan, who had come down from Bismarck for the event and for normal bank business. "It's a good way to say 'thank you' to our customers and keep in touch." Don spent quite a bit of time visiting with the passengers, and by his questions showed a great deal of interest in the community. Ellendale branch president Aaron Tchosik was also on the bus, talking with passengers and making sure everyone had access to drinks and snacks.

Upon arrival at the stadium (which is located on the Brown County Fairgrounds) they were welcomed to a delicious homemade buffet at the east end of the balcony. For the next two hours they experienced the sights and sounds of a hotly contested Junior Hockey game. Some of the Starion guests said the experience was a first. "It was all new to me," said Bob Tatum. "I was wide-eyed and bushy tailed the whole time. I loved the sounds of the pucks banging and cracking and the sounds of the train horns when the goals were scored. And this is the first time I'd ever seen hockey teams warm up before the game started. So Gwen and I had a great time."

One of the highlights of the experience was a visit by Winger, the team's costumed mascot, who posed for a photograph with the group. As if to welcome new spectators to the sport of arena hockey, the bright red-and-black bird warmly embraced both Bob and Gwen, evoking smiles from them and the rest of the group. The crowd was happy too, both with the quality of play and the outcome of the closely contested game. The Wings outscored the Minotauros 4-3.

The Aberdeen Wings, which play in the NAHL (North American Hockey League) are currently in the front of their 6-team division and are looking toward another strong year in the playoffs. They have a strong fan base. Since the team's inception ten years ago they have drawn some of the highest attendance of any team in the League, often with crowds of over 1,700. The arena's stands were quite full for the Friday game. The place was definitely filled with energy and excitement, and the Ellendale guests carried quite a lot of it back home with them on the bus. Judging by their experience, many will likely be finding their way back to the arena for another taste of hockey.

Ellendale Area Community Foundation Accepting Grant Applications

. The Ellendale Area Community Foundation is currently accepting applications for the 2020 grant cycle. Only applications submitted online will be accepted, and technical assistance will be available for anyone who needs it. Applicants must be within a 40-mile radius of Ellendale, and must be designated by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, or a government agency. Groups without such designation seeking to apply may enlist a fiscal sponsor. The deadline for submitting a request is March 15.

For instructions on how to register your organization and to apply for a grant, visit www.NDCF.net/Ellendale and click on the Apply tab. If you have questions, you are encouraged to call the North Dakota Community Foundation at 701-222-8349.

The Ellendale Area Community Foundation was established in 1998 as a permanent endowment fund managed by the North Dakota Community Foundation. Earnings from the fund are given as grants every year to organizations that support Ellendale and the surrounding area. Last year, more than $25,000 was awarded to 11 nonprofit and community programs, including the Ellendale Arts Council, Legion Baseball, Ellendale Public Library, and Ellendale Community Ambulance. For a complete list of the 2019 grants, please visit www.NDCF.net/Ellendale.

DICKEY COUNTY LEADER

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Kids Christmas Event at City Library - Dec. 14th

The Ellendale City Library is hosting a Kids Christmas Saturday, December 14th. The fun starts at 9:30 a.m. and will continue until 12:00 p.m.

There will be Kids Christmas Bingo and lots more fun activities for all to enjoy and celebrate Christmas.

Santa will be there from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and all kids will be able to meet and talk with Santa AND have their picture taken!

Plan to come over to the Ellendale City Library Saturday, December 14th and join in the fun. The City Library is located on US Highway 281 next to the Senior Center.

Note: This event was previously reported as December 21st but has now been changed to December 14th

Ice Danger Conditions Around James River

Signs will be showing up around all Dickey County James River access points (sign is shown to the right)

With the high river flows scheduled all winter, ice activities such as fishing, snow mobile riding and racing, ice skating, etc. will be extremely dangerous. Ice will be thin and the changing flows may leave gaps between the ice and the water. If you fall through, rescue will be near impossible.

These "NO Winter use restrictions" are in place the length of the James River from above the dams at Jamestown to the North Dakota/South Dakota state line.

NOTICE
THE PUBLIC IS ADVISED TO REFRAIN FROM ANY ACTIVITIES ON THE JAMES RIVER THROUGHOUT THE WINTER SEASON, DUE TO UNSTABLE AND HAZARDOUS ICE CONDITIONS.
ANY ACTIVITY ON THE JAMES RIVER WILL BE EXTREMELY DANGEROUS AND WILL MAKE ANY RESCUE ATTEMPTS NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE.
Dickey County Sheriff's Department

Ellendale City Partial Power OUTAGE
Monday, December 16
Starting at 10 PM • 6 hours

EHS Students Made Beautiful Wreaths For Ellendale Arts Council's Silent Auction

Roberta Johnson

The Ellendale Area Arts Council is pleased to announce they will be holding their annual Silent Auction again this year. One of the most popular items are the beautiful wreaths that are designed and made by the Ellendale High School students (Whitney Werdel's FACS Class). The nine students are pictured above with their wreaths. These wreaths over the past few years have generated a great deal of interest and the bidding has been overwhelming. The EAAC thanks all the students for their work on these wreaths as the money brought in from these items has helped bring in many events sponsored by the Arts Council.

If you would have items you would like to donate for the Silent Auction, you are encouraged to bring them over to the Dickey County Leader office.

The wreaths and other items will be on display at several locations during the month of December. They were at the Cardinal girls basketball games December 3rd and 6th and will be back at the school for the Cardinal boys basketball game on December 16th and the girls basketball game on December 17th. They will also be on display at the Dickey County Courthouse. Check them out and get your bids in. There will be bid sheets with each item indicating who made the item for your information.

Bidding will close December 21st.

(Photo by Ken Smith)

'Visions From My Childhood' Exhibit on Display

Reception for artist Kevin Kendall
4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.-Thursday, December 19th
Donate $150 or more to Opera House renovation project and receive book of exhibit artwork
••••••••••••

Ellendale native Kevin Kendall's exhibit – Visions from My Childhood – is now on display at the historic Opera House through the end of December.

A special reception for the artist will be held from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the gallery/lobby Thursday, December 19. Light refreshments will be served. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

Kendall's images – a combination of photos colored and enhanced from his childhood memories – include familiar places and people from the 1950's, 1960's and 1970's. Sites include Mile Bridge, Pheasant Lake, Pheasant Lanes, Sam's Drive-In, Redlin Implement, Keller's Champlin Station, Merrick's Five & Dime Store, the Nodak Hotel, the swimming pool, ice-skating rink and many more.

A 20-page hard-cover book of his artwork has been

created to help raise funds for the Opera House renovation project. Copies are available at the gallery/lobby or by mail to anyone who donates $150 or more to the O.P.E.R.A. capital campaign.

Donations can be mailed directly to the Opera House at P.O. Box 334, Ellendale, ND 58436, or made online by visiting the Opera House web site at: www.ellendaleoperahouse.com.

Noted newspaper columnist Jane (Boekelheide) Ahlin wrote the book introduction that encourages readers to "ride around a bit with Kevin Kendall's photographs. . . dragging Main from the college to the elevators of the old Ellendale Grain and Seed."

The capital campaign for renovation of the historic Opera House is now nearly a third of the way toward its $560,000 Phase I goal.

O.P.E.R.A. is a non-profit 501(c)3 charitable organization so all donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. All donors will be recognized by having their names listed on permanent plaques that will be displayed in the Opera House lobby.

Support the Opera House renovation and enjoy a drive down Main Street with Kevin's artwork by viewing his exhibit and then making a contribution of $150 or more to the Opera House.

The Opera House will be open for viewing of the 'Vision' exhibit from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. each Thursday and Saturday in December (Dec. 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26 and 28).

City Workers Rise to Snow Challenge

Story and Photos by Ken Smith

Anyone driving down Main Street in the days following the big post-Thanksgiving snowstorm will have noticed that our area, though mostly flat, is sometimes home to small mountains. The removal of roughly 13 inches of wet, heavy snow from Ellendale streets began about 2:00 PM on the afternoon of Saturday, November 30. By 5:30 AM Sunday morning, city workers Todd Flynn, Jim Monroe and Mike Merkel had taken a break. But they were back at it by noon that day. In the immediate wake of the storm, they put in well over a week's worth of overtime.

As always, streets are plowed according to a priority system that puts emergency routes at the top of the list, followed by less-traveled residential streets. Main Street, unlike most others, presents a special challenge: the snow cannot simply be moved to the curbsides, since the sidewalks are directly adjacent to the street itself. Therefore, the snow must be first piled up and then hauled away. The piles create interesting, temporary roundabouts with narrow passages on either end. They also make tempting sled hills for young, energetic people. And for a photographer willing to climb them, they provide a nice vantage point for unusual angles on the many nearby structures.

Public Works Supervisor Todd Flynn said that cleaning up after the post-Thanksgiving storm was made more difficult by the unusual slipperiness of the road surfaces beneath the snow. The city's motor grader, although it has front-wheel assist, could be seen spinning its tires whenever it was necessary to push a large mass of snow. Installing tire chains is an option, but Todd has been reluctant to do that because greater traction puts more stress on the machinery. Also, chains are likely to tear up road surfaces, creating bigger problems that would show up in the spring. The city's motor grader is a 2002 model and is in good condition, with decades of life left in it. The well-equipped machine is used only within the city limits, except for opening access for a short distance east and west on the Ball Park Road and the Cemetery Road. Beyond that, road clearing is the responsibility of the townships and the County. The state of North Dakota is responsible for Highways 11 and 281 outside the city limits. Todd stressed that City operators do a good job of coordinating with both the state and the townships to make sure the clearing gets done as efficiently as possible.

When the streets were finally cleared, city workers were ready to haul the "snow mountains" to a location on city property west of Bell's addition. Todd said that hauling it there has been advantageous, since the old location near the High School track created moisture complications when warm weather arrived. Now, the water simply runs into the tiny creek west of town. The actual snow hauling process was delayed after this storm because the Payloader, a 2002 Case model in good condition, developed a hydraulic problem. Once the new parts arrived, the crew was back at it, running two of the city's three dump trucks (the third was in the shop for repairs) back and forth from Main Street to Bell's addition, slowly whittling down the mounds.

continued on page 3

DICKEY COUNTY LEADER

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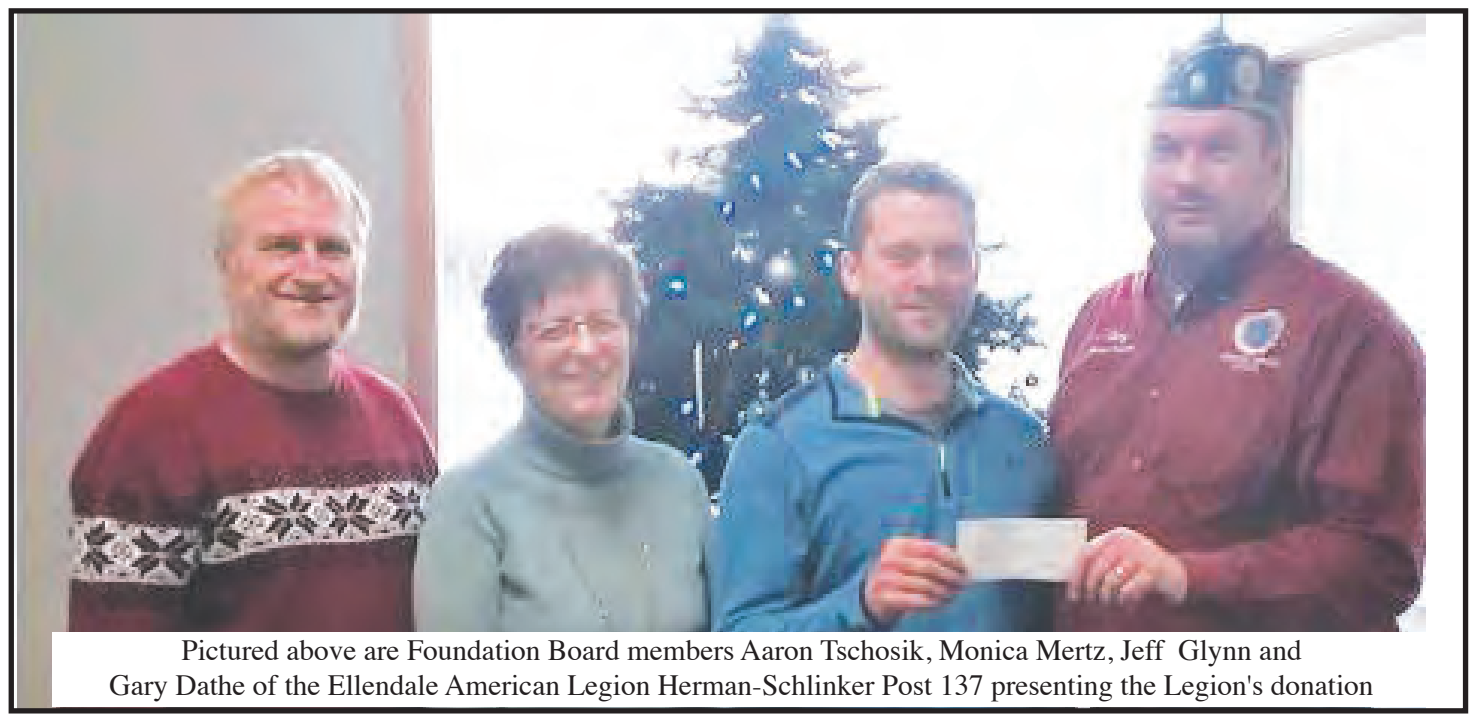
EHS Music Students Selected to Play with UND Honor Band & Choir

Congratulations to Jacob Russell (left), Bethany Morehead (center) and Josh Olson (right) for being selected to play with the University of North Dakota Honor Band and Choir the weekend of January 25th. Josh was in men's choir, Bethany was in women's choir and Josh played the trombone in the honor band. ***(Submitted photo)***

Ellendale American Legion Donated $5,000 to Ellendale Area Community Foundation



Pictured above are Foundation Board members Aaron Tschosik, Monica Mertz, Jeff Glynn and Gary Dathe of the Ellendale American Legion Herman-Schlinker Post 137 presenting the Legion's donation

Several donations were received at the end of the year, including Jim and Eileen Zimmerman ($1,000), Aaron and Paula Tschosik ($5,000), John Boekelheide ($5,000), Starion Bank ($5,000), OLS ($5,000) and Ellendale American Legion ($5,000).

The Ellendale Area Community Foundation began the 2019 year with a challenge of raising $100,000. Frank Larson, whose gift started the Foundation in 1999, announced that he would match all monies placed in the endowment fund in 2019 up to $100,000.

The Foundation Board members are pleased to announce the amount raised was $89,491! The 2018 and 2019 raffle events together brought in $20,000. The $69,491 was generously donated by current and former residents and businesses in the Ellendale area. The Board is extremely appreciative of the charitable support. By raising the endowment fund total, more money will be returned annually to be granted to many more organizations and entities. These organizations help to make the Ellendale a great place to live.

The Foundation will continue to raise monies to increase the endowment fund. In April the 2020 grant recipients will be chosen. Thanks again for a very prosperous year!!

'Visions from My Childhood' book donations exceed $13,000

Submitted Article

A dozen copies of Vision book still available for donors of $150 or more

The "Visons from My Childhood" fundraising campaign to help fund restoration of the Ellendale Opera House has been a great success with donations now totaling just over $13,000.

Ellendale native Kevin Kendall's images – currently on display at the historic Opera House, 55 Main St. – will be available to individuals donating to the campaign after the exhibit closes.

To view the exhibit pieces that will be available to donors, go online to the opera house web site : www.ellendaleoperahouse.com. A total of 26 of the exhibit pieces are available for a $50 donation and two of the larger pieces are available for a $75 donation.

You can select the art you would like and make your donation online or by mailing a check with your selection(s) to O.P.E.R.A., Inc. P.O. Box 334, Ellendale, ND 58436. The item(s) will then be mailed to your address.

In addition, a dozen books containing more than 50 of Kendall's Vision images are still available for those wishing to donate $150 or more to O.P.E.R.A.

Kendall's images – a combination of photos colored and enhanced from his childhood memories – include familiar places and people from the 1950's, 1960's and 1970's.

The 20-page hard-cover book of exhibit artwork and 30 other images were created to encourage donations for the Opera House renovation project. Kendall generously donated the use of his artwork for the exhibit and book.

The overall "Building Our Future and Preserving Our Past" capital campaign for renovation of the historic Opera House is now nearly a third of the way toward its $560,000 Phase I goal.

O.P.E.R.A. is a non-profit 501(c)3 charitable organization so all donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. All donors will be recognized by having their names listed on permanent plaques that will be displayed in the Opera House lobby.

Vi Nell Surprised!!

Submitted Article

November 6th, 2019, the Ellendale Public School gym hosted an annual Veterans Day Program. Vi Nell knew she was to be a guest speaker on behalf of the local VFW Auxiliary #3545. She was so proud to tell us all about when and why she started in both the VFW and the Herman-Schlenker Post #137 American Legion Auxiliary. Her four brothers, two in the Army and two in the Air Force, were the source of her inspiration. She was so proud of them that she knew the only way to give back was to join the auxiliaries.

She joined both in 1950 and is now in her 70th year of service to our military members and their families. She is especially proud of our Buddy Poppy (R) drives. Each year in May she pounds the streets of Ellendale to distribute the flower she is so proud of. This year she presented her auxiliary with a special Buddy Poppy Garden which she made 13 different flowers out of the Buddy Poppy (R). It is a beautiful display of love.

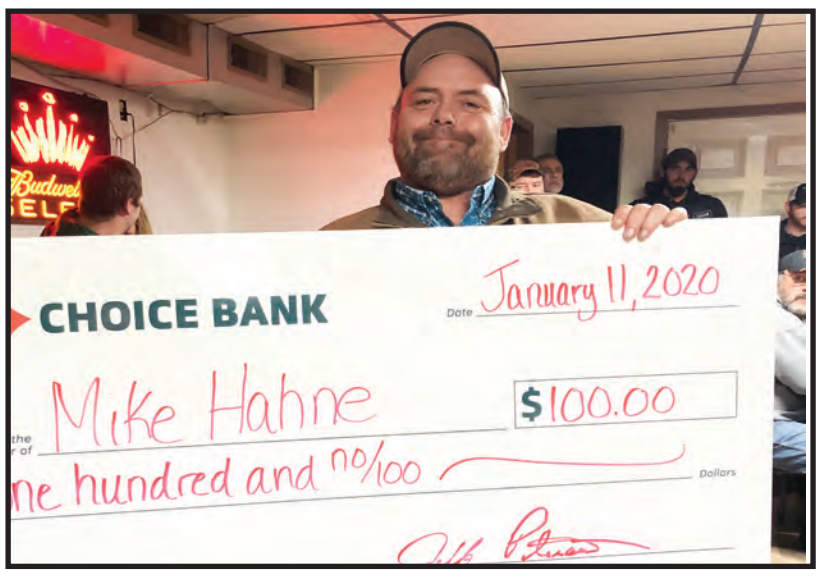
Little did she know that later in the program she would be the presentee. Vi's 90th Birthday was to be on Thanksgiving Day. As music director Char Merkel started her students singing Happy Birthday, the whole crowd joined in as the American Legion and VFW Auxiliary presented her with a dozen roses.

Not only does she generously support our military and families, with her time and money, she spends countless hours supporting all of the Cardinal and Thunder sports, American Legion Baseball, church functions, bingo nights at the Legion, meals on wheels and so much more.

If there were more Vis in our communities, our world would be a better place. She was truly surprised and would like to thank everyone.

Submitted photo

Fireman's Chili Cook-Off and Raffle a Huge Success



The Annual Ellendale Fire District's Chili Cook-off was a huge success with a large crowd enjoying the festivities and delicious food all for a fun night. The Fire Department thanks all those that joined in the fun, congratulates the raffle winners and congratulates the chili-cook off winners. The funds raised from the raffle will be used to purchase new equipment needed by the fire department. Bringing the department up to date on equipment is vital when their response is needed.

The Fire Department wishes to thank all those that donated food for the event including the Wetonka Vet Service (Erin Christ, representative), Troy Franklin, Troy Olson, Mike Thorpe, Alex Tschosik and Dillon Thorpe along with the fabulous cookers Wayne Klipfel, Pete (Petey) Flynn, Richard "Dick" Olson and Brandon, James and Mark. Thanks also to Dan Nation and Wayne Klipfel for the cook shacks.

Thank you also to Choice Bank for donating the money for the cook-off winners, the American Legion Herman-Schlinker Post 137 for use of their club rooms for the event and also those donating or helping with the event - OLS Tubs, Thorpe Excavating, 281 Repair, Inc. Flying H Bar & Grill, Dickey Rural Networks, Dickey County Leader, Pheasant Lanes, Fireside Family Restaurant, Harvest Gardens, Jay's Highway Furniture, Ellendale True Value and Hwy 13 One Stop. This fun day would not be possible without the help of the volunteers, workers and sponsors.

The Raffle winners are listed on page 3 of this issue.

The Chili Cook-off is a popular part of the day's event and this year was no exception with several delicious pots of chili up for asking and the Fire Department thanks all who participated.

Taking first place in the Chili Cook-off was "Team Hotdish (Jim Glynn and Adam Gramlow) (pictured top left). Second place went to James Jenkins (pictured above center) and third place winner was Mike Hahne (pictured top right). The "People's Choice" winning chili went to Lane Olson and Casey Seelye (pictures to the left).

(Submitted photos)

DICKEY COUNTY LEADER

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EPS Support Staff Are Vital to School's Operation

Michael Kaiser

All support staff members like custodians, cooks, and bus drivers are vital to the operation of a school district. Just like teachers, support staff members contribute to the educational experience of our students on a daily basis.

What makes bus driving unique is that they transport our most precious cargo - our community's children. They are the first ones to greet our children in the morning and make sure the trip to school is a safe one in all kinds of road and weather conditions.

While school bus drivers do their best watching out for our children, it takes a community effort. Motorists need to always stop when a school bus driver activates the flashing lights and when the crossing arm is fully extended.

Ellendale Public School District has an excellent team of bus drivers that are committed to serving students and families. They know their role impacts a child's life every single day. A huge thank you to all of our bus drivers and substitute bus drivers!

Ellendale School is always looking for substitute bus drivers. It's a difficult position to fill due to the nature of the position. It's a "split shift" and drivers don't earn money when school is not in session. Still it's a popular option for retirees and maybe a good fit for stay-at-home parents and college kids. Some days when there are multiple activity trips it is difficult to find substitute drivers for all of the regular bus routes. We really are facing a critical shortage and the district is working on creative solutions. If anyone is interested in becoming a substitute bus driver they should contact the school or apply online at **www.ellendale.k12.nd.us.**

Aberdeen Area Arts Leader to Speak at Ellendale Area Arts Council Annual Meeting January 25th

By Ken Smith

"My philosophy for creating is, 'well, what can I do with this; or, this reminds me of this, or, let's have some fun!' I was always an imaginative and inventive kid! When my dad renovated an old schoolhouse into our home, I would visit the junk-pile of heating radiators, pipe, plumbing and etc. and make stuff out of it. One time I made a miniature golf course to cover the entire acre of back yard we had!"

Lois Beckner is a Pennsylvania native who came to Aberdeen in 1988 and went right to work in promoting her passion for the arts. She became the Cultural Arts Program Coordinator for the ARCC (Aberdeen Recreation & Cultural Center). In that role she dealt extensively with children's art. She started and promoted literally hundreds of events and many programs. All the while, she was able to continue her own artistic work.

As the speaker for the Ellendale Area Arts Council's annual meeting (Jan. 25 at 10:00 AM), Lois will be speaking about her current driving passions: the use of the arts to facilitate health and well-being, particularly among populations that often find themselves cut off from the mainstream of arts culture. Senior citizens, she finds, can experience dramatic improvements in attitude and physical health through exposure to the arts. More recently, Lois has been taking the arts into prisons, giving inmates new ways to approach life and creativity. The results have been quite positive.

Lois has also promoted the arts as part of a teaching practice to prevent bullying in schools. Personal creativity, it turns out, has a way of brightening one's attitudes and promoting care between individuals. It has also been shown to be effective in reducing pain, easing recovery from traumatic brain injuries, and helping people deal with mental illnesses.

Lois noted that her work is not the same as "art therapy," which is more closely related to the medical field *per se*. It has more to do with connecting amateur and professional artists with people who can benefit from what they do and teach. And, of course, encouraging individuals to keep developing their creative abilities.

Lois' talk at the Annual Meeting will discuss some of the history behind these uses of the arts. The current wave of interest in such things is really a revival of an idea that was well understood in earlier generations. "it's an exciting field" she told the Leader, "and there's a lot going on in it."

The Ellendale Area Arts Council has been involved in this field for years, organizing the Art for Life program, which brings special events to the Prince of Peace Care Center on a regular basis. The general public is invited to these events as well.

The Arts Council Annual Meeting will be in the Woodland Room at the Fireside Restaurant January 25 at 10:00 and will last about 90 minutes. A light brunch will be given free of charge. Everyone interested in the arts is more than welcome to attend.

Ellendale School Bus Driver Keeps Passengers Warm and Safe

By Ken Smith

"John, could you turn down the heater?" A young passenger seated about halfway back on the bus is too warm. "Yes ma'am," the driver responds immediately, reaching for the control panel at his left. "I didn't think" he adds, "that I'd hear anybody ask for the heat to be turned down on a day like today. Let it never be said that I let my kids get cold."

The outside temperature hovers around zero, and the horizon is covered with a fresh sheet of snow. The sun has almost risen over the horizon and is glinting against frosty fields and tree fences and the white-laced windows of John Beckius' 47-passenger school bus. A little while later, one of the passengers asks, "John, can you turn the back lights off? "Yes" he answers immediately, and the lights switch off. It's a few weeks before Christmas, and there's a good spirit on the bus.

John Beckius drives the longest of the four routes that deliver rural kids to and from the Ellendale Public School. The route takes him from his farm northwest of town out to the foot of the Coutea hills (and sometimes into the hills), back past Merricourt, down, through Monango and points east, then south again with eastward and westward jaunts. This year, one less pick-up has shortened the nearly 90-mile course he drove nearly every school day last year. He starts early. He has to be on the road by 6:45 AM. Most of his route is on gravel, and there are stretches of harsh washboard. "Some of these roads are absolutely horrible," he says, which is why he's set a schedule consistent driving only 45-miles per hour off the pavement. But he does enjoy looking at the landscape he loves.

The families on the route know just when to expect the bus. "I know my route intimately," John says. Specifying an exact time "eliminates the possibility of that age-old excuse of kids why they are late, and they always say 'well I couldn't see the bus through the trees.'" All concerned know, of course, that delays and complications will sometimes throw the route off schedule. Regardless, John says, pointing to his watch, "they need to be looking at the right thing. If I say 7:39, they better be out there at 7:39. That' just the way I do it."

Politeness and safety are two main watchwords on John's bus. He greets each rider by name as they step on board, and they greet him back. The process repeats when the kids step off the bus in front of the school. In between, John does anything he can to help his passengers have a good ride, and build the family atmosphere. Sometimes he tells them jokes or gives them an interesting story about his own experiences. Once in awhile he'll throw in a tall tale that makes the younger kids' eyes big. The older kids know him well enough to tell when he's teasing, but they don't seem to mind. For more entertainment, the bus has a good radio, with speakers all the way back. "The kids have their favorite radio stations" John says. Recently, their preference has been for Big Dog Country 95.5 from Jamestown or Q 101, a pop station from Valley City. "Yeah, I kind of spoil my kids," he says. "Once a week I'll give them cookies. They all know the program. I just keep the box up in the cupboard, and I give it to one of the kids. They'll hand them out themselves, so I don't even have to mess with it."

Driving kids and making music are two of John's main loves. He's been an accordion player for decades, and he collects instruments. He plays at events nearly every chance he gets. Two days before his interview with the Leader, He declined a well-paying extracurricular trip so he could play at the Prince of Peace annual Christmas Bazaar. He's also got many decades of driving experience. His years with school busses started in 1985, but 18 years earlier he started driving big passenger busses for Star Lines in Nebraska. "I had quite a route," he recalls. "It was based out of Scottsbluff. I kept the bus at Chadron overnight in their service bay." In 1980 he married Ellendale native Marsha Zinter, who, John notes fondly was the first baby born in Ellendale's Memorial Hospital, in June 1953. The couple settled northwest of Ellendale in 1989, enjoying farm life and staying active in the community and church life. When Marsha passed away in 2010, John found solace in his many friendships, in the countryside, and his music. And, of course, in service to the many hundreds of passengers he has served faithfully for so long.

The bus goes over a big pillow drift and shudders gently. Rough spots and washboards shake the big vehicle quite a bit, but it keeps a firm, solid feel. "One day," he recalls, "the kids asked me how come this bus don't have seat belts? Why do you have that one on and we don't?" His answer was typically humorous. "Well," he responded with a chuckle, "that must mean I'm the only idiot on the bus." The youngsters know that's only a joke. Driving a school bus requires a high level of intelligence and attentiveness, and John has plenty of both. Also, riding on a modern bus is statistically very safe, much safer than riding in an automobile. The high padded seat backs are designed with collisions in mind. Moreover, seat belts, which have been introduced by some districts around the country, introduce their own set of safety issues.

North Dakota school bus drivers are required to have extensive and regular safety training, and it's something John takes very seriously. He pays attention to small details, always alert. Most of all, he worries about careless drivers. Some years ago a semi nearly smashed into his bus at a pick-up stop on Highway 11. The semi driver slammed on his brakes, raising a big cloud of smoke, but couldn't stop in time. "He swerved into the other lane," and then his semi jackknifed, stopping right at the back of the bus. It happened at 8:00, John remembers, "but at 12:30 my knees were still knocking." Safety training nowadays, says John, no longer refers to "accidents." Instead they are called crashes. "If a person is paying attention to their driving, and driving the way they are supposed to drive," John insists, "there's no excuse for a wreck." As it turned out, the semi driver in this particular event was texting while driving.

After saying goodbye to his passengers John headed his bus back to his farm northwest of town. All the while sharing warm parts of the memory quilt he's built up over the decades. Driving past a farm a few miles north of town, and looking out at the ice and snow brought to mind a memory shared a few years ago by a man who grew up nearby. John Wheelihan, who is now 102, went to a country school through the 8th grade, and enrolled at Ellendale High School in the 1930s, before bus service existed. "Getting through high school in those years," John recalled, "was tough, if you lived in the country. You either had to stay in town or drive or ride a horse or something. I've come in a wagon and I've come in on skis, and in that car I had. We had hot water for antifreeze. My dad and I, we'd take hot water down to the garage and get it started in the morning, and then I'd drive in and I'd drain it and at night I'd go down into the boiler room and get some more hot water, start it, drive it home, then drain it. That was tough going."

Life is quite different now, and better in many ways. Today's rural families, served by a faithful corps of drivers with modern busses, have much for which to be thankful. See article to the left for a word from Superintendent Michael Kaiser on our bus drivers and all of the people that work together to serve our youngsters at the Ellendale Public School.

Arts Council is Bringing Barn Quilt Art Class January 25th

By Ken Smith

"I love the precise nature of this craft. When you pull up the tape and see that perfect straight line and the matching points, it's really satisfying!!"

Karin Baker, whose home is in the James River Valley near the little town of Dickey, enjoys rural life. And she loves using art to make it more interesting. "Barn quilts" are one way she expresses this love. On January 25, at the Opera House, starting at 1:00 PM, Karin will hold a workshop in which each participant will be provided with the materials and the guidance to create their own unique finished barn quilt, which they will take home. Karin notes that these quilts can be displayed in many ways, on homes, garages, driveways, or even indoors. One doesn't need a barn to participate. Barn quilts also make good gifts.

There is some evidence that "barn quilts" were used at farmsteads in pre-Civil War days to mark the locations of safe houses on the Underground Railroad. The modern versions, though, date to 2001, when Donna Sue Groves of Adams County, Ohio wanted to honor her mother by hanging a painted quilt on her barn. The idea seemed odd, but her friends encouraged her. Then they expanded the idea. Why not, they suggested, put quilts on a number of barns along scenic byways of their rural area, and encourage people to drive these routes as a form of recreation? And so, the first "barn quilt trail" was born.

The idea has been spreading. Nelson County (west of Grand Forks County) is home to North Dakota's first barn quilt trail. The North Dakota Tourism Bureau (www.bit.ly/ndquilt) officially recognizes the trail. Though the trails are still uncommon, www.barnquiltinfo.com says that individual barn quilts can now be found in every state as well as the provinces of Canada. That's good progress for an art form that's been around for less than two decades.

Karin's mentor in barn quilting was Cynthia Buchholz from Bittersweet Barnquilt Company in Hutchinson, Minnesota. Karin learned fast. Making the quilts is relatively simple, once one understands the process. And as anyone who has ever handled a child's kaleidoscope knows, the pattern possibilities are endless. Karin would like to see more people making and displaying this form of art. She is hoping to organize an officially recognized quilt trail along the Chan SanSan Scenic Byway, which stretches through the Red River Valley from Jamestown to LaMoure. One can already see several examples of the art along that route, including several that Karin Made. One of them is a 4' x 4' quilt that was donated to the Byway and is on display at their kiosk near Adrian. Karin also admires the quilts displayed at the Tony and Amy Roorda farm near Ypsilanti, northeast of Dickey. The Roordas have hung 9 large quilts on their haybarn, giving passersby a nice visual treat.

The workshop will be at the Ellendale Opera House January 25 at 1:00. Karin will also be attending and presenting briefly at the Arts Council's annual meeting (free and open to the public, light brunch included) at 10:00 at the Fireside the same day.

To encourage greater participation in the workshop, the Ellendale Area Arts Council is subsidizing a portion of each participant's fee. The normal cost would be $70.00, including all instruction and all the materials to make a lovely quilt to take home the same day. But for this event, the cost per person will only be $50.00. Registrations are due Jan. 18. To register or get more information, contact Lana Schlecht at warlan@drtel.net, or call her at 701-261-3320.

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Ellendale Area Community Foundation Awards Over $25,000 in Grants

2019 Community Foundation Grants: Ellendale Country Club, TBC Lions, Oster Park Campground, Dr. Roy Lynde Field, Ellendale Public Library, Opera House, Fairgrounds Archery Range, Prince of Peace

Ken Smith, Dickey County Leader

Aaron Tchosick, who heads up the Ellendale Area Foundation, gets to award checks to local organizations to assist them in their work of enhancing the community. In past years, recipients have been invited to a reception to receive their awards in a single ceremony. This year, Aaron and fellow Foundation board members decided to bring the checks to the site of the receiving organizations instead. A total of $25,810 was awarded, along with many smiles and congratulations. Aaron noted with satisfaction that as the endowment has increased annually, the board has been able to increase the amount of its awards. Serving with Aaron on the board are Monica Mertz, Paul Mahler, Paul Betting, Chad Durheim, Allison Radermacher, and Jeff Glynn.

This year's grants went to ten organizations. The Ellendale Country Club (four miles south of town), borders on a creek that has in recent years become backed up due to weeds and silt. The grant will pay for cleaning out the waterway, restoring it to a more natural flow, reduce mosquito breeding area, and create a more pleasant environment for golfing. TBC's athletic director Jordan Nowell received a check to purchase a brand new commercial-grade washer. The new machine will allow the retirement of the department's worn-out unit. Justin Meidinger, who heads up O.P.E.R.A. (the Organization of People for the Restoration of the Arts in Ellendale), received checks for ongoing work at the Opera House and for two programs carried on under the auspices of the Ellendale Area Arts Council. The Arts Council puts on the Summer Concerts series that brings top performers to the park about once each month, and oversees Kid's Art, headed by Jami Eberle, who holds frequent creative arts sessions for young people.

The American Legion Baseball program received moneys to rebuild the aging grandstands at the Roy Lynde Field and spruce up the signage. The Ellendale Park Board received moneys to refurbish the bathrooms for the camping facility at Oster Park on the north side of town, and to make the site more inviting for both locals and for the many visitors who pass through every year. The Dickey County Extension Service received a generous grant to refurbish the west building at the fairgrounds into an archery range. The project will include installing a new ceiling, lighting, and a remodeled bathroom. Enthusiasm for archery is growing in the area, and the new facility will be well used.

Monies for the Prince of Peace Care Center went toward a new Automated External Defibrillator (AED), an essential piece of emergency equipment. The Foundation gave a grant to the community Ambulance service to help purchase new equipment for emergency hypothermia treatment, an essential preparedness item for winter emergencies. Aaron noted that the Foundation often partners with the Ellendale Healthcare Fund to provide support for such medical enhancements.

These 2019 projects add to the hundreds of worthy efforts undertaken in the last 20 years with the help of the Foundation. Together, they add up to a significant enhancement of community life and well-being. The Foundation was established in 1998 by a gift from Frank Larson, founder of the Starion Bank. It is affiliated with the North Dakota Community Foundation, which is a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation that operates under IRS code 501(c)(3) and North Dakota Law. All local non-profit organizations that operate for the benefit of the community at large are eligible to apply for a grant from the Foundation. Aaron is readily available at Starion Bank to provide more information about applying.

Photos by Ken Smith

Foxtail Workers Focus on Teamwork

Ken Smith, Dickey County Leader

"The pieces stack like a lego." Crane operators Charles Vap and John Hoffpauir, and ground crewman C.J. Menchaca, took some time to describe their work at the Foxtail Wind Farm, which is being assembled in the hills about 25 miles northwest of Ellendale. Charles, an Oklahoma native who worked for many years as a welder, remarked at the precision of the massive steel and fiberglass parts he now works with. "All of them are prefabricated. They all bolt together. No welding. Zero." When asked if things always fit properly, he said "ninety-nine percent of the time they do. I've only seen one tower that did not go together on the first try. They had to pull on it" to make the pieces slide into place.

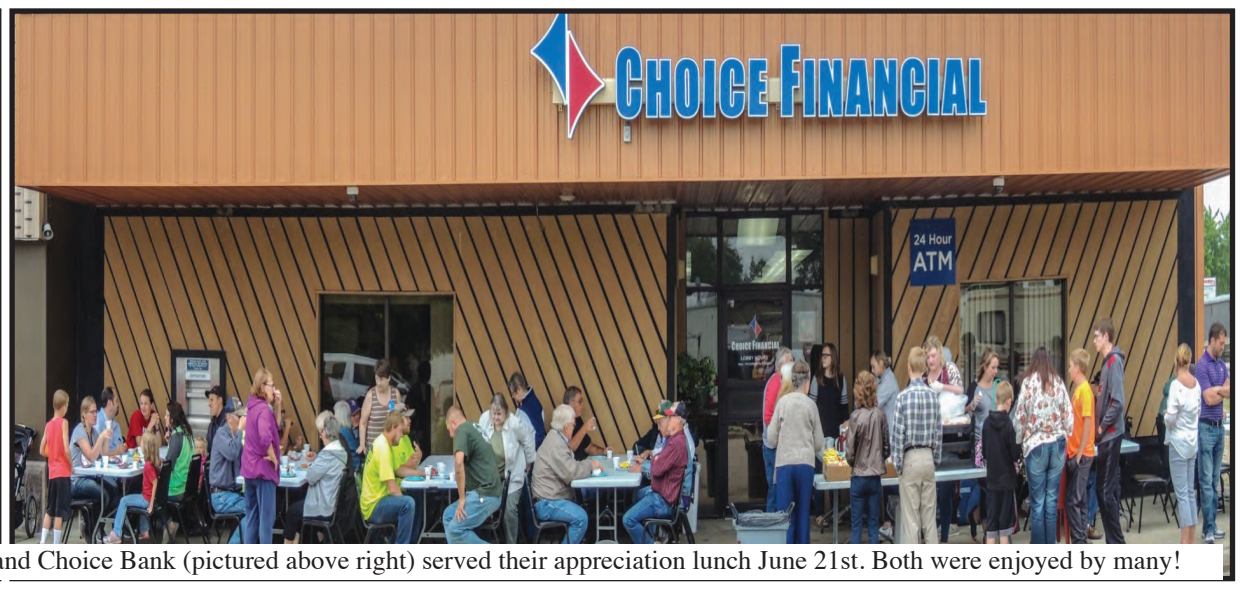
The Lego analogy makes the work seem easy, but in reality the process demands a great deal of skill and alertness. C.J. works on the ground with a team of five men, all Texans. Since early June, they have been receiving transport trucks laden with the huge pieces for the farm's 75 wind towers. Together with the crane operators, the ground crewmen form a tight team. The crane operators give the ground crew top honors in terms of importance. "They take care of us" said Charles. "We 100% rely on them. We do exactly what they tell us to do."

C.J. likes the work and the responsibility that comes with it. "We're out there and we're talking and we're making sure these guys are not running into other components," he says. "We are their eyes. We're always watching." The camaraderie is intense: "what I like about it is I get to interact with the other employees, There's a team of us four others beside me, and two crane operators." They also pay close attention to weather and ground conditions. Wind gusts can make things complicated. Muddy ground can make it hard or impossible to get the trucks into proper position for unloading. "We can't unload when it's too muddy. That's because the components are so low to the ground. We tried but tore some equipment up on that soft ground." Right now, unloading is the priority. Later these men will be hoisting parts skyward as the horizon begins to fill with turbines.

The day begins early for these men. Charles and John have to have their machines running and ready by 6:00 AM, so the three leave Ellendale by about 5:00 AM each day. Work days can vary from two hours to 16 hours. "Last week," Charles said, "we were there a couple very long days, and then we had two days off because of rain." The men appreciate the beauty of the environment, and whether on the ground, sitting in the crane cabs, or driving back and forth from Ellendale, they notice the big and small details. John has taken beautiful photos of rainbows, and the men have stopped often to watch fox kits playing around a hillside den near the highway.

Continued on page 6

Choice Bank & Dakota Plains Credit Union Treat Ellendale



Dakota Plains Credit Union employees (pictured above left) enjoyed serving their appreciation lunch June 27th and Choice Bank (pictured above right) served their appreciation lunch June 21st. Both were enjoyed by many!

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Ethan Ellingson Reaches 100 Wins!

Congratulations to Ethan Ellingson of Edgeley! Ethan, 195 pound wrestler for the EEK Thunder reached his 100th carrier victory at the State Wrestling Tournament. Ethan is a junior on the Thunder team. He is shown above with his parents, Wyatt and Carrie. Ethan joined Ethan Carruth and Bridger Mathern in the 100 victory club. Carruth and Mathern reached their milestone earlier in the season. Carruth is from Ellendale and Mathern is from Edgeley. Ellingson, Carruth and Mathern are all juniors and will be returning to the Thunder next season for their Senior year. They will also all be suited up for the EEK Thunder football team next fall. (Submitted photo)

Alan Webster Inducted Into Custer High School Hall of Fame

Alan Webster was inducted into the Custer (SD) High School Hall of Fame. If the Custer wrestling community has Alan Webster - a patriarch of the most famous wrestling family in Custer - to thank for nearly 30 years of success on the mat, then the Custer wrestling community should also thank one more person for 3 decades of wrestling excellence, an Ellendale ND basketball coach. That's right, wrestling fans, thank basketball.

As a freshman at Ellendale High School Alan wanted to play basketball and had never stepped on a wrestling mat. The only problem, he stunk! He couldn't jump or shoot - so it was then the basketball coach suggested he quit and try wrestling. It turned out to be one of the best suggestions Webster would ever receive. A suggestion that still benefits children 5- years later. Go out for the wrestling team and Webster did and the career path it led him to would see him immortalized in the Custer High School Hall of Fame.

"I have so much respect for wrestling. It takes so much work" Alan said. You have to watch what you eat, you get your butt kicked and have to get back up. I guess I have so much respect for it because it's so darn hard."

Wrestling also gave Webster his career in teaching.

Most successful wrestlers have been hitting the mat since they were old enough to walk. Although Webster didn't wrestle until halfway through high school, he was blessed with farm boy strength and was somewhat of a wrestling prodigy. By his senior year, he was in the state championship match. This despite cracking ribs in the regional meet.

It was so severe his doctor told him if he wrestled he could puncture a lung and die. He wrestled anyway and lost a 7-6 decision.

While Webster lost the battle, he won the war. He was offered a scholarship to wrestle in his hometown college. "Otherwise, I wouldn't have gone to college" Webster said. "I would have been a farm boy. We didn't have money." At the college in Ellendale Webster won a conference championship at 150 pounds, competed for the school's rodeo team and was center fielder for the baseball team.

Webster transferred to Valley City State Teachers College in Valley City, ND where he wrestled varsity and qualified for the National Tournament.

Continued on page 3

February Was Active Arts Month In Ellendale

Ken Smith
Dickey County Leader

February has been a very active month for Ellendale in at least two areas: shoveling snow and appreciating the arts.

On Feb. 12, the Prince of Peace care center hosted author and popular speaker Ron Vossler of Wishek. Vossler, who specializes in the history and folklore of the German-Russian people, regaled residents with vivid stories that reminded them of their youth, and of dramatic life episodes both odd and ordinary. Afterward, residents posed for photographs holding everyday items from rural and town households, having connected them with stories about their lives. They recorded these stories, some in fragment form, on paper with the assistance of Ron and volunteers from the Ellendale Arts Council. Emotions flowed, sometimes with smiles and laughter and a few times with tears, as elders contemplated the meaning of experiences that have shaped their lives. Good reports from the event were received immediately, and flowed in over the next two weeks, as relatives reported how their loved ones were touched.

February 12, a beautiful, ingenious display by sculptor Bradford Hansen-Smith opened at the Opera House. The "Circles" display features dozens of extraordinary sculptures—from complex snow-flake-like designs to giant dragon like creatures—all skillfully crafted from simple paper plates. Saturday the 16th, Bradford conducted a full-length afternoon instructional session in which he explained the geometric concepts behind his work. A circle, he explained, contains nearly infinite geometric possibilities, and these can be brought out through systematic folding. The two dozen workshop participants stayed busy making multiple folds on paper plates, observing the various angles and dimensions, and ending up with surprising three-dimensional creations. While these didn't look like much in comparison to the magnificent sculptures on display at the Opera House, Bradford conveyed a clear understanding of the basics of an art form with nearly infinite creative potential. After the lesson, participants visited the display with the master, where they learned more about these amazing structures.

The Bradford Hansen-Smith display will be at the Opera House until March 10. Hours are Monday-Friday, 9:30-3:30 and Sundays. 11:00-4:00. Admission is free. A number of school groups have visited the display, and more are scheduled in the weeks remaining.

Also this month, Trinity Bible College and Graduate School resumed the long tradition of dramatic productions at the Ellendale campus by performing the C.S. Lewis classic *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. The play was well attended and drew a great deal of applause (and some healthy laughter) from the audience. The quality of acting was impressive, and along with the enthusiasm of the actors, it more than compensated for the simple set and lack of accoutrements that go with high-budget productions. This was the second play directed by Amy Freier, who for several years has also headed Trinity's elementary education department. The revival of Trinity's drama department under Amy's direction comes after a more than ten year hiatus, as the last full stage production at the college took place in 2006 under the direction of Elma Peckinpaugh. Amy and her students and colleagues are determined to rebuild the tradition of dramatic productions at Trinity, and are grateful for the attendance and support of the community at these events.

Friday, February 22, Prince of Peace hosted another outstanding arts demonstration, with the visit of Rick Whittier of Lidgerwood, ND who is regionally famous for his ingenious fish decoy carvings. Typically, Rick's carved fish are used for wintertime spearfishing, but they are also in great demand as art pieces. Prince of Peace residents and guests who attended the session got to see and handle an unusual combination: finely crafted artwork that is also highly valued for its functionality. This is a popular visit for the residents.

The Ellendale Area Arts Council has maintained an active calendar of events for nearly 12 years, with multiple activities each month. The support and participation of the public is much appreciated. To keep an eye on upcoming events, and to get periodic inspirational arts-related stories, please visit and like their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/EllendaleAreaArtsCouncil.

(photos by Ken Smith)

2019 Predator/Varmint Hunt Results and Winners

Troy Olson (left) congratulates the 1st place team (l-r): Jack Lematta, Jordan Klipfel and Josh Lematta

Troy Olson (center) congratulates the 2nd place team (l-r): Jach Siebert and Dave Wagner

Troy Olson (left) congratulates the 3rd place team (l-r): Josh Pettigrew, Tyler Effraimson and Jaime Taylor

Jim Glynn winner of 243 rifle

Dan Swensen winner of 17 HMR

The 2019 Predator/Varmint Hunt was a huge success with 58 hunters and the number of animals was 220. They got 164 raccoons, 22 skunks, 31 coyotes, 2 fox and 1 badger this year. The main purpose of this hunt is to get rid of predators and varmints that are harmful to livestock and game such as pheasants and deer and sheep and cattle, especially the young. Troy Olson, organizer of the hunt was very pleased with the success of this year's hunt as it grows in numbers each year (this was the 4th annual hunt) and he wants to thank all the landowners that contacted him asking that their land be used for the hunt as they wanted these predators and varmints gone from their land. Troy would like to thank Richard and Peggy Olson for preparing the chili for the hunters. And also a big thank you to all the volunteers that helped with the event to make it move smoothly. This year the cash and prize winners equaled $3,800.

He would also like to mention the sponsors for this year's hunt: Dickey County Pheasants Forever, Mertz Lumber and Supply, Ellendale True Value, Royal Flush Hunting Lodge, YPSI Bar and Grill, Lazy Pair Bar and Grill, Green Iron Equipment, Ellendale American Legion, Chad's Electric, Farmers Union Insurance (Diemert/Lamatta), 281 Repair, Harvest Gardens, Nicci's Frybread, Christiansen Trucking, Dr. Geoffrey Rath, OLS Tubs, Inc, Farmers Tractor Parts, Farmers Union, Nodak Insurance (Brad Nishek), Witt Consulting, Inc., Price Plumbing, Jim Redlin, Richard and Peggy Olson and James Zimmerman.

More winners shown on page 3 of this issue

(Submitted photos)

DICKEY COUNTY LEADER

The Official Newspaper of Dickey County

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New Years Eve Gala Party December 31st

Submitted Article

December 31st magic will happen in Ellendale! The Historic Opera House on Main Street will have a Gala…a fundraiser party for the restoration of this vital space. Local women including Sarah Fischer, Jamie Eberle, Lana Schlecht, Katie Mahler Petersen, Angela Sand and Megan Wiebe have been collaborating for months to arrange the second annual New Year's Eve Gala Fundraiser.

The funds will go towards restoration of the Opera House. Ellendale's Opera House was built in 1909 and was a huge attraction for events. The auditorium on the second floor has stellar acoustics and was said to host 1000 people. The building was left to the elements with no tenant and no maintenance for years. A committee, O.P.E.R.A, Inc. was formed about 26 years ago to try to save the building. Since that time repairs have been made to many areas of this huge structure. $300,000 has been spent to keep the building structurally sound. It is now time to move on and ready the building for retail areas, gallery space and space for larger events. A major fund raising effort, a capital campaign, is underway now to bring the building back to its former splendor.

The Gala fundraiser will be from 8:00 PM until 1:00 AM on Dec. 31st. Free champagne will be served at midnight to ring in the new year. The evening will feature elegant decorations, food, a bar, music, prizes and contests along with friends and fun. Designated drivers and coat check will be provided.

One of the best parts of the evening will be the silent auction. Committee members have garnered wonderful items for bidding. Some of these are 2 Broncos football tickets for next year, getaway vacations, Medora activities package, jewelry, including a $500 pearl necklace, wine, blankets, spa package and much more. All are welcome.

Tickets are $25 per person for this evening of fun. Dressing up is fine but so are casual clothes. Tickets can be purchased at the OLS office (formerly Mahler's Village Variety) and the Legion Club.

The Opera House is vital to Ellendale. Many art classes, lectures, presentations, art shows, graduation gatherings, and community events are held there. We have no community center other than this building. Sarah Fischer, head organizer, was given a tour of the building a few years ago when she moved to Ellendale. She could see the beauty and potential of this historic building and wanted to be a part of saving it. She said, "The Gala gives us a chance to bring people in and show them the beauty of the building. It gives them a chance to participate in saving this grand old building". If you cannot attend the Gala please consider a donation for the restoration. Any donation can be sent to P.O. Box 344, Ellendale, ND 58436.

Sponsors for the event are Dickey Rural Network, the Legion, Ellendale Tourism and AgriMax.

Christmas Play at the Ellendale Opera House

Submitted Article

OPERA, Inc.'s latest theatre production, entitled *Not A Creature Was Stirring…Not Even A Moose* will be performed at Ellendale's Historic Opera House on December 16th & 18th.

Missing the Christmas spirit? Has the Yuletide you up in knots? Then subscribe to the Herald Tribune, where editor J.J. Garnes makes sure he uses the holiday to his own advantage, whether it be to expose the crooked mayor or sell a few more issues with just the right angle. And he thinks he finds that angle when he receives a letter from a small boy who "don't want no more Christmases." Delilah and Sarah, Garnes' assistants, are equally cynical until they find a "Wish Moose", a Christmas ornament that grants their fondest wishes. Do they believe? It's up to Barney, the janitor, to show them how to develop the St. Nick knack. And wishes do begin to come true – with hilarious consequences – whether it's Garnes dressed as Santa Claus, falling out of a crop duster, or maybe St. Nicholas himself showing up. This fast-paced tribute to Frank Capra has you laughing with a lump in your throat with all the season's warmth and wit.

Cast members include: Grant Crabtree, Valerie Wagner, Jolene Maunu, Colette Middlestead, Robin Smith, Tom Davis, Brenda Rekow, Vicky Crabtree and Tim Steinwand. The Sunday, December 16th performance will be a matinee beginning at 3:00 pm. The Tuesday, December 18th event will begin at 7:00 pm.

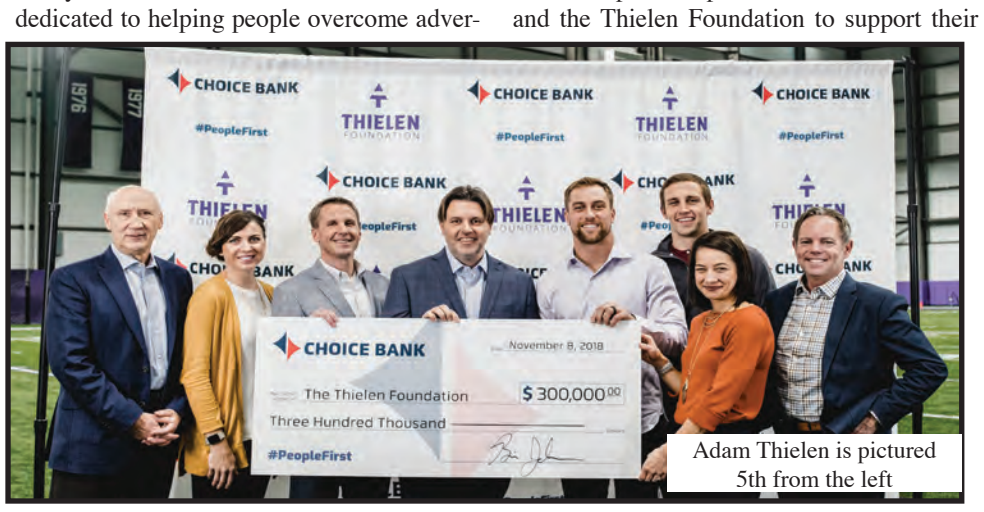
Tickets are general admission and will be sold at the door - $10 for adults and $5 for those 18 & under. Refreshments will be served during an intermission.

Not A Creature Was Stirring…Not Even a Moose was written by Pat Cook and produced by special arrangement with Eldridge Publishing Company.

Vikings Adam Thielen is Making Big Receptions Both On & Off The Field

The Thielen Foundation Received a $300,000 Donation and Partnership Commitment from Choice Bank

Minneapolis, MN: Minnesota wide receiver Adam Thielen is posting big numbers on the field this season with 85 receptions, 1,013 yards and 7 touchdowns after the first 10 games but one of his biggest receptions this year is the $300,000 donation and partnership commitment that he received from Choice Bank. The donation will give a boost to the newly launched Thielen Foundation which is dedicated to helping people overcome adversity to achieve their full potential in life.



Adam Thielen is pictured 5th from the left

"From day one, Choice Bank has been extremely excited to partner with us and they've been committed to the Thielen Foundation," said Adam Thielen. "When you have partners and people that are that committed to what you're doing, that's when you have success and that's when you're able to help more people and make a difference."

North Dakota-based Choice Bank, which recently expanded in Minnesota through its acquisition of Venture Bank, has a history of philanthropy with a "People First" commitment to bettering the communities where they work and live.

"We're proud to partner with Adam, Caitlin and the Thielen Foundation to support their mission and help them grow," said Choice Bank CEO Brian L. Johnson. "Hopefully our partnership and financial commitment will help attract others to focus on this foundation and what it can do for the community."

"At Choice Bank, one of our major stakeholders is our community and that's why we're in business," said Choice Bank Minnesota Market President Michael Zenk (formerly of Venture Bank). "Giving back and building is what being a community bank is all about."

"I'm very thankful for all of the support that I've received to get to where I am today. It's important to give thanks. During the offseason I took time to send notes and speak with many of the coaches, teammates, teachers, friends and family that have helped me along the way," said Adam Thielen, "But I know that actions speak louder than words, so Caitlin and I created the Thielen Foundation to give back and help others with a focus on youth development."

One of the first Thielen Foundation initiatives has been supporting the University of Minnesota Masonic Children's Hospital with financial assistance and personal visits with a focus on the Pediatric Behavioral Health Unit.

"The biggest thing for us is letting the kids know that we care and we want to get to know them, and we want to hear their struggles and hear their joys, and just help them in any way that we can," said Adam's wife Caitlin Thielen, "We don't just want to be the face of the organization, we want to get involved and do good things for other people."

Choice Bank is also matching all donations to a PledgeIt campaign that will encourage fans to support The Thielen Foundation by committing to donate for every catch Adam makes for the remainder of 2018-2019 season. Both Thielen and Choice Bank will match all donations, up to $19,000 (a tribute to Thielen's jersey number). Fans can make donations online at: http://www.pledgeit.org/thielenfoundation.

In addition, Choice Bank is the presenting sponsor of the Thielen Foundation's inaugural Winter Topgolf Classic on December 3 which is already sold-out.

"At Choice Bank, they don't just say people first, they live it," said Thielen.

About Thielen Foundation: Founded in 2018 by Adam and Caitlin Thielen, the Thielen Foundation aims to create and support programs that serve, educate and inspire people so they're equipped and empowered to achieve their full potential in life. With a focus on youth development, the organization is dedicated to help people overcome challenges and adversity with a guiding principle "Achieve Your Full Potential." For more information, go to: www.thielenfoundation.org.

EHS Student Wreaths on the Silent Auction for Ellendale Area Arts Council Fund Raiser

Twelve seniors from Mrs. Reis' Family and Consumer Science II course at Ellendale High School have donated their efforts to making holiday wreaths again this year! Learning standards in FACS II involve the understanding of, and ability to work with different types of textiles as well as focusing the benefits of getting involved in your community. The wreath project combines both, along with some fun holiday spirit. Resa Russel, also a student at EHS but not in the Family and Consumer Science II class has also designed a wreath and that is shown here also.

The wreaths will be displayed at various locations in Ellendale throughout the holiday season. They will be on display in the North Gym Lobby of the school during the boys and girls basketball games vs. Oakes Friday, December 14th.

The Ellendale Arts Council's Silent Auction also includes many other items up for bid including local artists handiwork. Proceeds from this fun project will go entirely toward the Ellendale Arts Council for upcoming events in 2019 such as art exhibits, concerts, concerts in the park, photography exhibits, Kids Art and much more throughout the year.

Come out to see them and place your bid! Bidding ends at noon December 19th!

Sydnie Hustoft

Lesi Strong

Sarabeth Enge

Cody Merkel

Keegan Reegan

Karissa Kinzler

Peyton Merkel

Kayla Rotondi

Ianna Enget

Kiley Laarson

Bethany Reggan

Resa Russell

Cole Winter

Girard elected to DRN Board of Directors

Ellendale, ND—Dan Girard, Ellendale was elected to Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative (DRN) Board of Directors at its recent Annual Meeting, held Oct. 18 at the Ellendale Public School, Ellendale, ND. Girard will represent District 10—Ashley, Edgeley, Ellendale, Kulm and LaMoure exchanges. Arden Falk, Fort Ransom (District 3) and Sidney Meidinger, Fredonia (District 4) were re-elected to serve another three-year term.

During the 68th Annual Meeting, members were updated on the financial health of the cooperative. Accounting Manager Troy Radermacher informed members the cooperative's net margins for 2017 were $5.5 million and invested over $4 million in various plant upgrades throughout the service territory.

Board President Ralph Neu, Ashley and Robert Johnson, DRN CEO/general manager were pleased to report the Cooperative return over $2.2 million in 2017 to members in capital credits. Johnson was pleased to report that member equity grew from $53 million in 2013 to $66 million in 2017 and the cooperative saw a $1 million net margin increase from 2016. Other information presented included service offering changes and growth in DCN. According to Johnson, the Cooperative must continue to grow non-traditional revenue and control costs. Neu said, "DRN's focus remains to furnish high-quality communications to consumers at competitive prices which will ensure long-term viability for the cooperative."

DRN Board of Directors include—

* President Ralph Neu, Ashley, representing District 7 Nelvik and Venturia exchanges
* Vice President Ralph Greer, Marion representing District 2 Dickey, Litchville and Marion exchanges
* Secretary Arden Falk, Fort Ransom representing District 3 Fort Ransom, Kathryn and Verona exchanges
* Ralph Greer, Marion representing District 2 Dickey, Litchville and Marion exchanges
* Sid Meidinger, Fredonia representing District 4 Fredonia and Jud exchanges
* Myron Yagow, Milnor representing District 6 Milnor and Crete exchanges
* Paul Olson, Forbes representing District 8 Forbes and Merricourt exchanges
* Brunno Kinzler, Fullerton, representing District 9 Fullerton and Guelph exchanges
* Dan Girard, Ellendale representing District 10 Ashley, Ellendale, Edgeley, Kulm and LaMoure
* Rod Buck, Oakes representing District 11 Forman, Gwinner, Lisbon and Oakes exchanges

Dickey Rural Networks provides telecommunication service to more than 8,200 customers.

ABBREVIATED NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT AND AMEND AND REPEAL ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

relating to Programs under the Authority of the North Dakota Department of Agriculture

North Dakota Department of Agriculture

will hold a public hearing to address proposed amendments to and repeal of N.D. Administrative Code Article 7.

Fort Lincoln Room
Ground Floor
N.D. State Capitol
600 East Boulevard Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58505
Monday, Nov. 26, 2018
9:00 a.m.

Sections being amended include provisions for the dairy program, meat inspection, apiary, plant industries, and to repeal sections regarding the organization of the agency and the noxious weeds list.

A copy of the proposed rules are available at https://www.nd.gov/ndda or may be obtained by writing the North Dakota Department of Agriculture, calling (701) 328-4764, or by email doarules@nd.gov. Also, written comments may be submitted to: North Dakota Department of Agriculture Attn: Rules Coordinator 600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 602 Bismarck, ND 58505-0020. Written comments will be accepted through Dec. 6, 2018. Written comments may be submitted electronically to doarules@nd.gov. If you plan to attend the public hearing and will need special facilities or assistance relating to a disability, please contact the North Dakota Department of Agriculture at the above telephone number, address, or email address at least 10 days prior to the public hearing.

Dated this 23rd day of Oct., 2018.
/s/ Doug Goehring
Agriculture Commissioner

Kedish House Spaghetti Dinner - HUGE Success

The Annual Kedish House Spaghetti dinner was held October 21st at the Opera House Lobby and it was standing room only! Shown at the top right is just part of the crowd that attended and enjoyed the delicious spaghetti dinner.

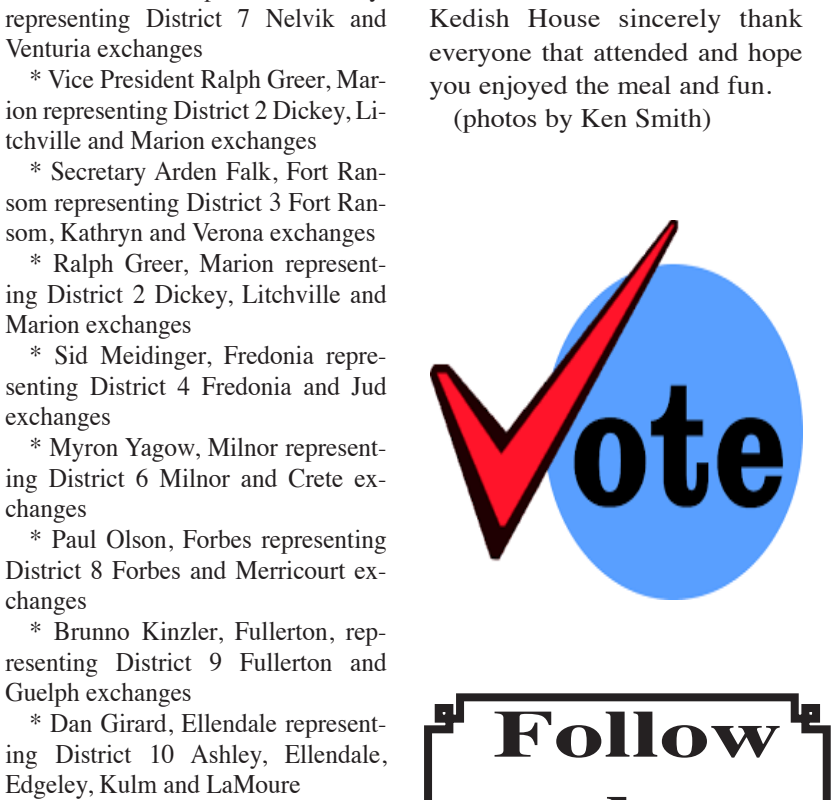
Not only was there a delicious meal to enjoy but there was a silent auction that was a huge success and the pie auction was outstanding.

Shown in the bottom right photo Florian Schnabel is handling the auction duties for the event. He certainly does add to the fun of the day. One of the pies went as high as $80 so the proceeds for the dinner and activities was excellent.

Sharron Brady, director of Kedish House and everyone at Kedish House sincerely thank everyone that attended and hope you enjoyed the meal and fun.

(photos by Ken Smith)

Follow the Leader


VETERANS DAY SUPPER
Sunday, Nov. 11, 2018
5:00 p.m.
American Legion Club rooms • Ellendale, ND
— EVERYTHING FURNISHED —
All Veterans & Spouses,
American Legion Members & Spouses
American Legion Auxiliary & Spouses
Sons of the American Legion & Spouses
are invited...See You There!

'TIS THE SEASON
The ELLENDALE AREA ARTS COUNCIL is soliciting original holiday art work for our annual Christmas fund-raising SILENT AUCTION.
If you have original art to donate please contact Lana Schlecht at 701 349-4748. We need the art work by November 24th.
Art work will be on display for bidding at various sights around town. More information to come.
Ellendale Area Arts Council
Discover the artist within!

FREE LUNCH

Ellendale Senior Meals

Thursday, November 8, 2018

Meat loaf, baby red potatoes, squash, pear sauce, cookie

Free Hearing Screenings

available for those interested. Sign up at the Sr Center or call 349-4513.

Sign up for lunch by noon on Nov. 7 by calling Peggy at 349-4513

Lunch and screenings provided by Eichler HEARING CENTER

Ellendale Re-Cycling Center is now accepting GLASS Containers (jars, bottles, etc.) NO Window Glass

CASH PRIZES $1000 - $1000 - $500 - $500 - $250* - $250* $100 - $100 - $100 - $100

The following donations will be included in the prizes awarded:

2 - $50 gift certificates & Corinthian Bells / Harvest Gardens
Savage Axis XP 22-250 w/scope / Cash Contributors
NSU Wolves season tickets for 2 / Northern State University
DeWalt cordless blower / Mertz Lumber & Supply
Flowers for a year / Prairie Floral
2 - $50 Cenex gift cards / Halonen Seeds
Hanging towel dispenser w/flashlight / Green Iron Equipment
Pressure washer / The Plumber at Mertz Lumber
Cosmic bowling for 4 w/pizza / Pheasant Lanes
$50 gift certificate / Fireside Restaurant
$50 True Value gift certificate / Merkel CPA
2 - $25 gift certificates / The Ranch House
Table lamp / Jay's Hiway Furniture
Mall of America activity tickets for 4 / KDDR Radio
Razor Lite knife / Farnam's Genuine Parts
$50 gift certificate / Ellendale Country Club
5 - $100 Visa gift cards / Starion Bank-Starion Insurance
1 month certificate / The Body Shop
5 - $5 gift certificates / Cream & Sugar
2 - $50 gift cards / Casey's General Store
Holiday gift basket / The Cutting Edge
2019 family swimming pool pass / Ellendale Park Board
Events for a year certificate / OPERA, Inc.
Gift certificate and gift bag / JeberleCo
Wine-liquor / American Legion Club
Echo Spot / DRN
Gift bag & certificate / Touch of Class Salon
2 - Wings ticket packages / Aberdeen Wings Hockey
4 - $25 gift certificates / Tosie's Market
$50 service certificate / Blumhardt Chevrolet
Medora Musical pkg / Medora Foundation
Remington VC 12ga Autoloader / Chad's Electric-Choice Financial-True Value

- tickets -
$10 each
3/$25 - 8/$50
20/$100
120/$500

Attend the event & have a chance to win 3 unique gift baskets (donated by Harvest Inn) and 2 drawings for $250 in cash!

$600 / Ellendale Tourism
$300 / 281 Repair - Dickey Co. Abstract - Ellendale Pharmacy - Orwig's Tubs - Troy's Repair
$250 / Fullerton Farmers Elevator – Prince of Peace/Evergreen Place - Witt Consulting
$200 / Farmers Union Oil - Thorpe Excavating
$150 / Farmers Union Insurance
$100 / Carlsen Funeral Home - Cotter Dental - Dakota Plains Credit Union - First National Bank Glynn Law Firm - Mowers & More - Nodak Mutual - Prairie Winds Motel - Sanford Health Top Notch Repair
$ 75 / Hoven Funeral Chapel
$ 25 / AgriMax, LLC - Crabtree Insurance

* Ticket purchasers must be in attendance at the drawings to be eligible to win the $250 prizes

2018 ELLENDALE FOUNDATION RAFFLE

TICKETS AVAILABLE
Choice Financial - Starion Bank
Dakota Plains Credit Union
Mertz Lumber & Supply

Permit #333 - need not be present to win

Wrap-Up Event
Saturday, December 1, 2018
Beginning at 8pm
Games - Food - 10pm Drawings
The Granary Lounge in Harvest Inn

DICKEY COUNTY LEADER

The Official Newspaper of Dickey County

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A Magical Medora Christmas Returning to Ellendale - December 7

A Magical Medora Christmas Tour Coming to 24 Communities Across the Region

Show returns for the fourth season, tickets on sale now

(Medora, ND) – The Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation announced today the return of fan-favorite show, A Magical Medora Christmas! This year the show will travel to four states performing 30 shows in 24 communities.

A Magical Medora Christmas features past and present stars of the Medora Musical. Starring in this year's tour is former host of the Medora Musical and "Queen of the West", Emily Walter, Broadway stars Jared Mason, and Job Christenson, musician Chad Willow, and the host of the show, Bill Sorensen bringing the spirit of Christmas to audiences through his gift of humor, magic and love.

"This show gives us the opportunity to visit communities across the region during such a magical time of the year and offer a little bit of the spirit of Christmas, in our own Medora way. That is why this tour is so important to our cast and the Medora Foundation," says Co-host Bill Sorensen.

Tickets are on sale now at medora.com and local partners are listed online! Tickets will be on sale locally at the three financial institutions as they were last year - Choice Financial, Dakota Plains Credit Union and Starion Bank. Watch for details.

This year's events will be held in Steele, ND, Ipswich, SD, Spearfish, SD, Glendive, Mt, Watford City, ND, Willliston, ND, Medora, ND (3 nights), Mandan, ND, Minot, ND (2 nights), Devil's Lake, ND, Ellendale, ND, Fargo, ND (2 nights), Grand Forks, ND (2 nights), Grafton, ND, Park Rapids, MN, Detroit Lakes, MN, Alexandria, MN, Henning, MN, Wapheton, ND, Jamestown, ND, Bismarck, ND (2 nights), Valley City, ND, Fergus Falls, MN and Bloomington, MN (2 nights).

Medora™

EXPLORE IT. ADORE IT.

Chief Brad Knutson Presented CounterAct Program to 5th Graders

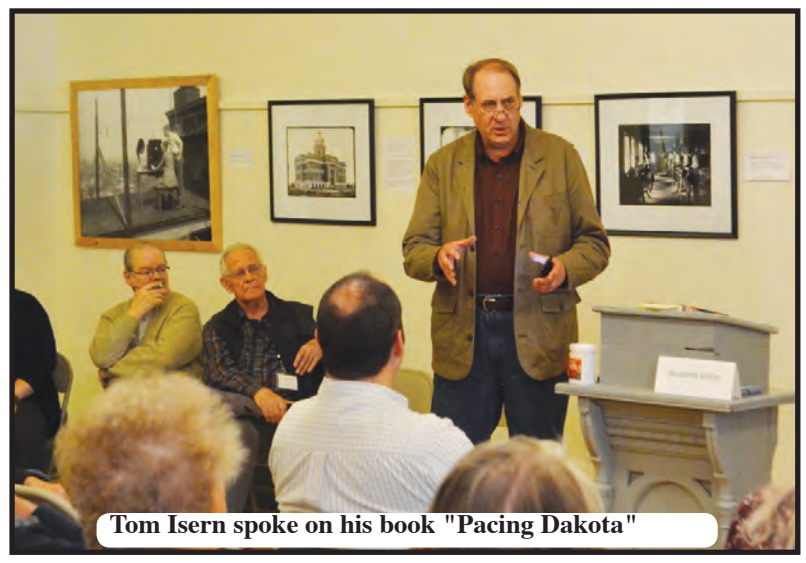
Ellendale Police Chief Brad Knutson is pictured with the Ellendale 5th grade class following the completion of the CounterAct Class. The students had just received their certificates for completing the week long class. Chief Knutson spent approximately an hour each day at the school with the students.

CounterACT (alcohol, chemicals and trouble) is designed for schools, families and police departments working together to teach students to learn the skills that will help them make positive behavior choices and resist pressure to get involved with alcohol, drugs and violence. At the end of the week all the 5th grade students received their certificates and gathered for a group photo. Chief Knutson (far right) is pictured above with the class, (Submitted photo)

2nd Annual Book Fair Featured 12 Authors

Poet and writer Sharon Chmielarz spoke on her latest book "Little Eternities and the Widow's House"

Ron Vossler spoke on his book "Dakota Kraut: Notes on How I Learned To Love My Accent and Ancestry"



Tom Isern spoke on his book "Pacing Dakota"

The 2nd Annual Book Fair was held October 14th at the Ellendale Historic Opera House Lobby and Gallery. This year's book fair featured 12 authors with local ties and the enjoyment of showing their books to the Ellendale and surrounding communities. The Book Fair was sponsored by O.P.E.R.A., Inc, Ellendale Area Arts Council and Humanities of North Dakota. All authors spoke to the large crowd Sunday telling about their books, reading some from their books and answering questions. All the authors' books were also for sale and they were very pleased with the sales. All the book stories were very interesting and informative as the authors not only spoke on their books but the art of writing and the rewards that follow. The 12 authors that were present at this year's Book Fair were: Dr. Tom Isern (*Pacing Dakota*), Amy Phillips (*Save Our Post Office*), Keith Norman (*Winds of Death*), Sharon Chmielarz (*Little Eternities and the Widow's House*), Margaret Holman James, Aaron Jacobson (*The Black Thorn Coat*), Emily Wadholm (*Celtic Knots*), Ron Vossler (*Dakota Kraut: Notes On How I Learned To Love My Accent and Ancestry*), Dan Pelletier Assorted books Donna R. Wood Assorted books, John P Blumele (*North Dakota's Geologic Legacy: Your Land And How It Formed*), Heidi Marttila-Losure (*Sky Theatre*) and Suzzanne Kelley from the NDSU Press. was the event's MC.

Plans are already in the works for the 3rd Annual Book Fair to be held sometime next year and many of these authors expressed the desire to return for the next event. AND if you are an author and would like to be heard and featured at the 3rd Annual Book Fair please contact Ken Schmierer. Local talent is always welcome!

(Photos by Ken Schmierer)

50th Anniversary of Local Woman's Run for State Office Holds Memories, Insights

Ken Smith, Dickey County Leader

"I just have to say there's not going to be much of a debate here," her opponent announced, introducing himself to the crowd. "Mrs. Wheelihan thinks that because she was once a secretary, she can be secretary of state." John Wheelihan Jr., eldest son of Clara & John Wheelihan of rural Ellendale, reminisced recently about his mother's run for office 50 years ago this month. John Jr., 16 at that time, recalls that the incumbent, Ben Meir, was wrong in his expectations: drawing on her decades of studying politics and her formal training in public speaking, Clara give him a strong debate. The boldness she demonstrated in that encounter and in the 1968 race left a deep impression on both family and friends.

Clara DeVeling Wheelihan (1923-1999) is remembered as a woman of high ideals and unusual determination. A native of Florida who grew up in Washington D.C., Clara served as secretary to high officials in the Pentagon, where she met Air Force officer and Ellendale native John P. Wheelihan. After World War II she was transferred to the State Department. There she held high clerical positions and served as personal assistant to Ernest A. Gross, the US representative to the United Nations. Her family has long treasured photographs of her on assignment in Paris, where she dealt with powerful world leaders and processed documents that would shape international relations for generations.

John and Clara married in 1950, after both had completed many years of full time service for Uncle Sam. Trading city amenities for life on the prairie, she gladly followed him to the prairies. John, who turned 101 this month, still marvels that this high-class woman was willing to join him in North Dakota, living in a small rural clapboard home whose paint was still bare from exposure to the dusty, driving winds of the 1930s. But she willingly submitted to the busy life of grain farming and sheep ranching, while raising three energetic boys. On top of the rigors of rural life, Clara engaged fully in community life. This wasn't always easy. "It's tough for anyone who comes into a small community," John Jr. noted. Clara was "gregarious" about attending the local clubs, and "she liked going and organizing—but it was really tough to break into."

Nevertheless, Clara made her own way. In the early 1960s she started a local chapter of the Toastmistresses, a club dedicated to cultivating speaking skills and civic leadership for women. John had always been engaged in township and county affairs. He and Clara were both believers in progress, having experienced how people working together could improve life for everyone. They never forgot the progress that came with the federal REA program, which brought electricity to rural Ellendale in 1950, the same year John brought Clara to the farm. They worked for better roads, better schools, better public services, and better leaders. They gave their spare time to civic organizations. John helped spearhead the Southeast regional water district, which would link farm homes to a reliable network delivering clean, fresh water.

John ran (unsuccessfully) for state representative in 1962, but when he was appointed postmaster in 1964 (a position he held until 1980), he had to give up politics. Clara decided to step in more boldly. She became active in the Democratic-NPL (Non Partisan League) movement, and volunteered for local and state leadership positions, becoming friends with a variety of leaders around the state. In 1968, she agreed to run for Secretary of State. That summer she attended the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, and witnessed up close the frightening riots that shook the nation, divided the Democratic Party, and exemplified what has been called the most violent era since the Civil War. Recalling that experience, she wrote a speech called "Politics Out of Control," in which she shared her insights into "mob rule." "What is mob rule," she asked, "but a crowd of people who have lost control of their emotions, egged on by those who are cool and calm and collected and who know exactly what they are after?"

Continued on page 3

Clockwise from top: Clara at her desk as assistant to UN Ambassador; 1968 campaign photo & lettering; with John Jr. in front of Wheelihan home; John in U.S. Air Corp uniform, about 1945 (photos courtesy John Wheelihan)

DICKEY COUNTY LEADER

The Official Newspaper of Dickey County

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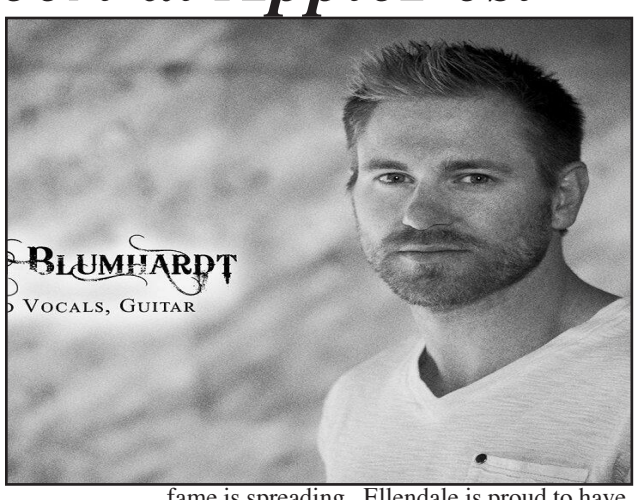
Sean Blumhardt & Latigo In Concert at AppleFest



Sean Blumhardt (2008 EHS Graduate) is lead singer and guitarist for the Colorado-based Latigo Band, which will be performing at Ellendale's AppleFest & Rib Fair on Saturday September 8. The concert will be held on Ellendale's West Main Street starting at 9:00 p.m. and will run until Midnight. Admission is FREE.

Latigo band has won a trove of awards from the Colorado Country Music Association (CCMA), an organization whose official motto is "Keeping Country, Country" and to promoting "the Country/ Gospel music Industry in the state of Colorado."

This year Sean himself took home two CCMA awards, "Male vocalist of the year" and "Entertainer of the year." Latigo is in high demand. They play almost every weekend, and perform at numerous public and private events. They've gained a strong reputation in the Rocky Mountain region, and their fame is spreading. Ellendale is proud to have them perform at this year's AppleFest.

Sean, is eager to return to his hometown, Ellendale and perform in front of family and friends. Let's make this a grand return for Sean and Latigo Saturday night - west end of Main Street starting at 9:00 p.m. Remember the concert is Free. Come out and enjoy the music by our own Sean Blumhardt!

Concert is sponsored by the Ellendale American Legion, Herman-Schlinker Post 137.

Gallery Display of Historic Photos by S.N.I. Graduate Elmer Thompson, a.k.a. "The Inventor"

PHILCO
brings you a new kind of Radio-Phonograph!
NO NEEDLES TO CHANGE
RECORDS LAST TEN TIMES LONGER
GLORIOUS NEW PURITY OF TONE

Elmer Thompson (at center) with his 5x7 camera, standing next to the S.N.I.'s Carnegie Hall, about 1912. Elmer's camera work helped start him on the path to becoming one of our region's most successful inventors.

Article and Photo Collage by Ken Smith

Gallery on Display at Ellendale's Opera House
Lobby & Gallery- September 8th - 30th

"It was a 5x7 camera, long focusing. And I took a lot of pictures with that thing. I took pictures of anything of interest. When I was going to school I was the school's photographer. Anytime the school wanted some pictures taken they'd call on me and I'd take the pictures." Elmer Thompson, (1890-1983) made his mark on Ellendale by capturing on glass plates a variety of scenes from some of the most transformative years of the town and college. Elmer attended the State Normal and Industrial School (often called the S.N.I.) here from 1909 to 1912, and went on to an illustrious career as an inventor. He was instrumental in producing the school's first yearbook, which appeared in 1912. Now, a large set of his original plates has been recovered. They are of immense historical value, especially to our area.

From September 8 to September 30, the Ellendale Opera House will feature a free gallery display of some three dozen enlargements of these remarkable photos. On Sunday, September 23, the public is invited to a free reception to enjoy the gallery along with food, visiting, and a presentation on Elmer's life and work. Paul Gronhovd, owner of the original glass plates, will be the special guest. Ellendale Historical Society President Ken Smith, who is writing a Ph.D. dissertation that touches on Elmer Thompson's work, will give a historical overview of Elmer and his significance.

The project is significant not only for the technical and artistic value of the photos, but also because many of them, including scenes of early Ellendale and the S.N.I., have never before been shown in public. They were discovered some years ago from in a dusty farmhouse attic in Osnabrock Township in Cavalier County North Dakota. The collection is lovingly kept by Mr. Gronhovd, a retired graphics professional at the University of North Dakota's Energy and Environmental Research Center (EERC) in Grand Forks.

Elmer Thompson's talents took him from his family's remote prairie farm to New York City and to positions at AT&T, RCA Victor, then to a long career as a top engineer at Philco, America's largest radio manufacturer in the 1930s. There he rounded out a long list of patents, a total of thirty by the time he retired in the early 1960s. In between, he earned an electrical engineering degree from the University of California and served in the Signal Corps in World War I. There he designed a system for tracking German airplanes and a synchronization mechanism to prevent machine guns on planes from blowing apart their propellers. After the war, Thompson studied at the University of Paris, taking classes from Marie Curie and Messr. Eiffel, the designer of the famous tower that looms over the city. Upon finally returning to America, he was recruited by AT&T, and worked in their massive complex at 195 Broadway in New York, where the world's most advanced communication equipment was being developed.

Continued on page 3

The gallery display and program is made possible in part by a gift from Professor Daniel Schneck and the work of the Ellendale Historical Society and the Ellendale Area Arts Council. It will be open for public viewing from Sept. 8 (Applefest day) until Sept. 30. Hours are Sundays from 11:00 to 2:00, and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:00 to 4:00. The reception and special presentation will be held Sunday, Sept. 23 at 5:00. All ages are welcome and all admission is free.

19th AppleFest Saturday, September 8th

Jeanette Robb-Ruenz, Dickey County Leader

Ellendale's 19th Annual AppleFest is this Saturday. It is hoped that you will all come out and join in the fun and activities.

Along with the events on the posters, the committee is working on having a lot of music on Main Street. They have contacted several local musicians of various venues to perform during the afternoon and early evening before Sean Blumhardt and Latigo perform at 9:00. Names have not been released but the committee has contacted several people in the community and country to bring their local musical talent to AppleFest. The stage will be around the RibFest vendors so one can enjoy the delicious ribs and other food offered while being entertained.

The day begins with the Road Race starting at 8:30 am at City Hall. If you are a runner or enjoy walking, come and join the race.

Pancakes will be served at the Fire Hall from 9-11:00.

Vendors will be set up on east Main Street at 11:00 am for your browsing. There will be an Art Show at the Opera House from 11:00 4:00pm (see story to the right on this page) and the Coleman Museum will be open during the same hours.

At noon is the Kick-off for the Ribfest on west Main Street. There is expected to be tough competition this year with plenty of delicious ribs for you to taste later in the day. This event is sponsored by the Ellendale American Legion and Choice Financial.

The Parade will also start at noon, traveling north along 2nd Avenue to Main Street, then east to the Evergreen Place, turning north there (3rd Ave) to travel to the Prince of Peace Care Center.

Inflatable Games will open from 1:00 to 5:00 pm for the children's entertainment. The games are sponsored by Ellendale Tourism and TBC. A $5.00 wrist band entitles them to an afternoon of fun.

The Little Mr. and Miss Ellendale crowning will take place at 1:00 pm at the east end of the Main Street business section, followed by the Apple Pie Auction.

Also in this area will be the Pet Show, sponsored by Brenda's Grooming and Boarding ,at approximately 2:00 pm, followed by the Pedal Pull, sponsored by Green Iron Equipment. Nearby Bingo will be played at 3:00 pm.

Of course, food will be available all day at various venues. Local businesses will have specials and the various vendors will be open to allow you to visit their booths.

Mahlers Village Variety plans to be open that day also so plan to stop in and find those last items remaining at great low prices.

A free movie will be shown in the Opera House Lobby at 4:30pm.

The Ribs have been cooking all day, so at 5:00 pm the judging will take place and you'll have the opportunity to vote for the "People's Choice" Award.

The Beer Garden at the American Legion will be open all day.

At 9:00 pm live music by "Latigo", featuring local native Sean Blumhardt. The music will continue until 12 midnight on west Main Street. The band is being sponsored by the Ellendale American Legion. What a great ending for a fun filled day!

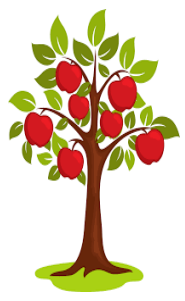
There's Midnight Bowling at Pheasant Lanes from 10:30-12am, for teens to under 21 years of age. Please bring a nonperishable canned food item.

Check out the clues for Johnny Appleseed on page 3 of this issue and get your votes in (vote at the 3 financial institutions in town). The prize for the correct guess is $25 in Ellendale Bucks

American Legion Donated to Ellendale City Library

of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one
hundred per cent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents
of our associations in the Great Wars; to inculcate a sense of individual
obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy
of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might;
to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to

Ellendale American Legion Herman-Schlinker Post 137 Commander Carl Lee (left) is shown presenting a check to Jan Reuter (center) and Carol Wadholm (right) for the Ellendale Public Library in the amount of $750. (submitted photo)



Education Day at Whitestone Hill State Historic Site

Jeanette Robb-Ruenz, Dickey County Leader

The State Historical Society of North Dakota and Friends of Whitestone Hill State Historic Site will hold the 19th annual Education Day next Wednesday, September 12 at Whitestone Hill.

This is a free event providing students with immersive experiences about the life and cultures of the people of Whitestone. The purpose is to increase students' interest and engagement with Northern Plains history/ND Studies throughout the coming school year While this event is mainly focused on area 4th graders, any students and adults are welcome and encouraged to attend.

The day's events will consist of several activities that may include erecting a tipi, tipi etiquette, hand games, Native bow hunting, beadwork, a nature walk and others to provide information on Native American life style. Matt Herman, Ellendale High School Principal and a member of the Whitestone Hill Battlefield Historical Society, will give a history of the 1863 events that happened at the site.

The keynote presentation at the noon lunch break will be by Lakota Hoop Dancer Kevin Locke. Kevin is known world-wide as a visionary Hoop Dancer, the player of the indigenous Northern Plains flute, a traditional story teller and a recording artist. He has performed for 40 years to over hundreds of thousands people in over 90 countries. His theme is "to raise awareness of the Oneness of humanity." This is one presentation you don't want to miss.

If you are planning to attend, remember to bring a sack lunch and since there is limited seating in the picnic area, perhaps bring your own chair.

Site Manager Robert J. Hanna stated,"We want to make this a memorable event for the students to see and do what history is telling them about this culture and to see the place where history actually happened, not just reading about it in a book."

Whitestone Hill is located 28 miles northwest of Ellendale, 15 miles southeast of Kulm, 36 miles east and north of Ashley, and 26 miles southwest of Edgeley. There are signs along the highways to help you find the way.

If you have any questions, you can contact Mr. Hanna at 701-328-3508 or email at rjhanna@nd.gov.

Make plans now to drive the few miles to Whitestone Hill on Wednesday, Sept. 12 for an Education Day for yourself. You won't be sorry you made the trip.

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The New York Kammermusiker Returns to Ellendale • August 10th

The New York Kammermusiker 12th Anniversary North Dakota Winds of Change Concert Tour

Fargo, ND – The New York Kammermusiker, a small, double-reed chamber music ensemble that performs classical music, is returning to North Dakota to celebrate their twelfth annual concert tour of the state. The group will perform concerts on both sides of the Red River for this anniversary tour.

The New York Kammermusiker will be in Ellendale for a Concert in the Park (Ellendale's South Park) Friday, August 10th starting at 6:30 p.m. *(Note: In case of inclement weather, the concert will move to the Ellendale Opera House)*

The New York Kammermusiker is a unique chamber ensemble that travels the world presenting a wide range of double-reed music, from the Renaissance era through Contemporary periods. This group is known for their experimental and improvisatory performances — often performing music written for their own unique sound — and for the excellence of their performances.

Formed in 1969 by ND native, Ilonna Pederson, this non-profit organization seeks to reintroduce the instruments and the music of the double-reed band to modern audiences. The group prepares modern scores from long-neglected musical manuscripts they seek out in their travels in order to bring the music of the medieval shawm bands to modern listeners. The sound is full and resonant, as if a much larger group were playing. The ensemble offers flawless performances in a lively, interactive manner, giving historical and cultural context to the music that is both educational and entertaining. The music and its history come alive.

The New York Kammermusiker draws from some of the world's finest musicians for their performances. Members have included musicians from the New York Philharmonic, the Vienna Philharmonic, the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, the Munich Bach Orchestra, the Frankfurt Radio Symphony, and the State of Mexico Symphony Orchestra. The music has rhythmic and harmonic unity achieved through the expert musicianship of the players, which distinguishes this group, elevates the music, and moves audiences who experience their performances. The musicians for this tour will include a contrabassoonist, who will bring a unique, very low-pitched bass sound to the ensemble. For music lovers who wish to experience something new and different, they could hardly do better than to spend an evening with The New York Kammermusiker.

The program for the 12th Annual tour will include Norwegian, other Scandinavian music, as well as music by Bach, Handel, Haydn, and more. Included will be a special presentation of music and theater celebrating North Dakota, featuring music dedicated to Theodore Roosevelt with narration by actor, Bjorn Pederson, whose recent appearances include the Metropolitan Opera, the Hudson Shakespeare Company, the 13th Street Repertory Theatre (NY), and the Midtown International Theatre Festival (NY).

They will also be having concerts in Fargo, Grand Forks, Lisbon, Wapheton and Enderlin in North Dakota and Breckenridge and Moorhead in Minnesota.

ACOVA Approves ND Commemorative Memorial Coin Program

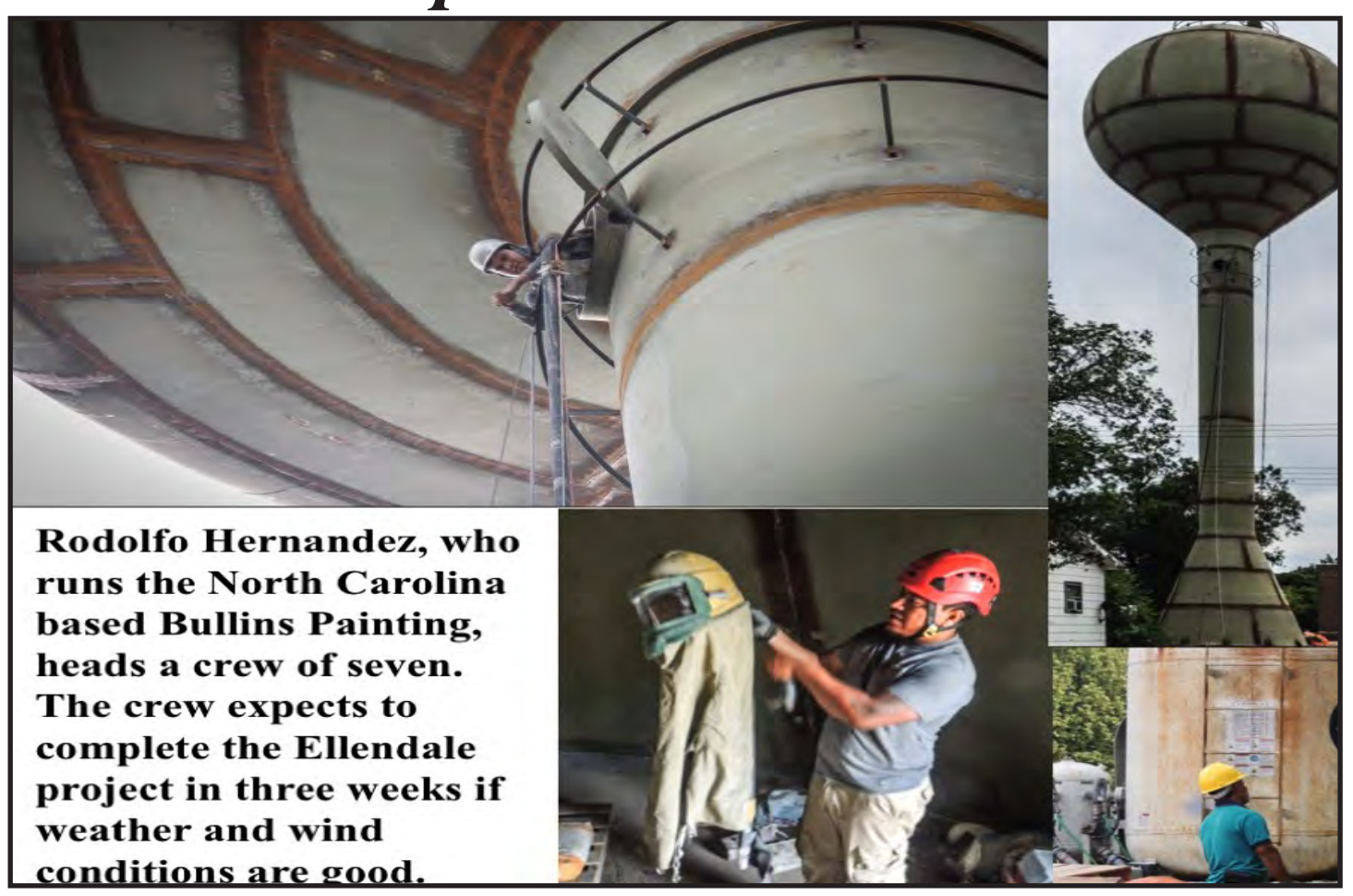
The North Dakota Administrative Committee on Veterans Affairs (ACOVA) approves the Policies and Procedures for the conferring of the North Dakota Commemorative Memorial Coin, also known as a Funeral Honor Coin, upon a family member during a Veterans funeral honors ceremony.

During the ACOVA's June 29th meeting in Steel ND the committee approved the final program details for the Coin. The policies and procedures on how the coin will be made available to funeral honor details, conferred upon family members as well as the sale of additional coins were finalized during this meeting. Details such as coin design, the bidding process, sales tax, postage, payment types, a clear understanding of eligibility for the coins as well as the requirement for the North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs to solicit donations from the public to fund the coins were all addressed since the ND Legislature passed the law in 2017. Shortly after the morning meeting the coins were shipped and, in some instances, hand delivered to ND Funeral Directors across the state. The first coin was conferred that afternoon at the ND State Veterans Cemetery.

North Dakota Funeral Directors have agreed to maintain a supply of coins for Funeral Honor Details to confer upon family members. In accordance with the ND law one coin will be conferred to a family member of a ND Veteran during Funeral Honor Ceremony. Family members may purchase additional coins from the ND Department of Veterans Affairs at a cost of $10 each. Funeral Directors will not be allowed to sell coins, however they can provide purchase forms which will need to be mailed to the ND Department of Veterans Affairs. Free coins will not be given retroactively they can only be conferred during funeral honors. Coins to commemorate past ND Veterans may also be purchased by family members. Eligible veterans must have at one time lived in North Dakota.

The coins design, which was approved by the ND Veterans Coordinating Council as well as the ACOVA earlier this year, has on the front side all five military service emblems, US and ND flag and verbiage: "NORTH DAKOTA MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS" and "ON BEHALF OF A GRATFUL STATE". The outer ring has a white background to symbolize "Purity and Innocence". It displays wheat which symbolizes "Love and Charity". The Blue field in the middle represents "Vigilance, Perseverance and Justice". The back side of the coin is centered around a soldier field cross with open space below if the family would want to have something engraved on the coin such as veterans name, rank, service dates etc. The outer ring verbiage; "DAY IS DONE", "GONE THE SUN", "ALL IS WELL", "SAFELY REST" is from popular versus used in the music "TAPS" which is played at military & veteran funerals. The wheat represents the "Divine Harvest" while the Gold back represents "Achievement and Honor".

New Water Tower Preparation Continues



Rodolfo Hernandez, who runs the North Carolina based Bullins Painting, heads a crew of seven. The crew expects to complete the Ellendale project in three weeks if weather and wind conditions are good.

Ken Smith (photos by Ken Smith)
Dickey County Leader

"Yeah, I like this work," says Rodolfo Hernandez, his eye on a crewman adjusting cables at a porthole just under the balloon-like bottom of Ellendale's new water tower. A deep metallic clang echoes from somewhere inside the huge steel chamber. "It's kind of a high," he explains "The adrenaline, once you get up there, you feel like you have superpowers. You feel like you can fly." Lying nearby are pallets with large sacks holding over two tons of glass-bead abrasives that Rodolfo and his six crewman will use to prepare the inside and outside surfaces. All rust will be removed. A coat of primer will follow, then a glossy white finish that will give a new look to Ellendale's skyline.

Rodolfo is the manager of Bullins painting, based in Climax, North Carolina, which specializes in water towers. "That's all we do," he says, noting that he's been in this work for over 17 years. He and his crew prepare and finish at least a dozen water storage units each year. They range in size from 100,000 gallon towers to two and three million gallon ones. Ellendale's will hold 200,000 gallons. "This is a baby, compared to what we usually do," says Rodolfo. He reaches for his phone and pulls up a photo of a recently painted tower in Durham, North Carolina, and another in Columbia, South Carolina. The massive Durham structure resembles a squat barrel standing atop a stack of paint cans. Not as elegant as Ellendale's balloon-like tower, but a whole lot bigger. That one, says Rodolfo, took about three months to complete.

Sandblasting and painting these structures is hard work. It requires lots of patience and ability to tolerate heat. "We'll start with the inside of the dome up there and work our way down. And we'll do the outside at the same time." Dust and fumes make the inside work especially challenging. "We use respirators—on the inside we use air tanks. It gets so hot up there." The work will take about three weeks, if weather and wind conditions are ideal. Rudolfo's crew often applies town logos or logos of local sports teams, but to the disappointment of some Cardinals and Lions boosters, none have been contracted for the Ellendale project.

The Bullins crew travels widely, but mostly stays near the east coast. This is their first North Dakota project. "This is the farthest we ever came," says Rodolfo. Just then, a crewman calls out in Spanish, from near the top of the tower. The foreman shouts a quick response, also in Spanish, and then moves quickly to see that a line is secured properly. More descriptions of the work will have to wait for later.

Regardless of whatever "superpower" sensations workers may feel, safety is a constant concern here, as it is with the other high things going up in our vicinity this summer. Ellendale's new water tower joins the 345 Kv Bigstone South to Ellendale transmission line that's being erected this summer and fall, and the gargantuan wind towers that will soon be installed in the couteau hills west of Ellendale. All are interesting signs of life on the prairie. Sometime this fall, valves will be opened and Ellendalers will begin to draw their water from the new tank. Thereafter, the 101-year old four legged structure that stands behind City Hall—reputed to be the oldest water tower in North Dakota--will be dismantled, altering Ellendale's skyline and projecting another sign of life on the northern prairie.

If You're a Pie Lover, Hope You Were At the Annual Pie Social

The Annual Pie Social at the Ellendale Historic Opera House was a huge success with a very large selection of pies from Apple to cherry to rhubarb and beyond. They offered pie, ice cream or whipped topping and beverage and all was delicious. Funds from the pie social will go toward renovations planned in the very near future.

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Share Your Opera House Memories

Jeanette Robb-Ruenz
Dickey County Leader

The Board of Directors for O.P.E.R.A., Inc. needs your help to define how the Opera House has served the community and residents since its opening more than 100 years ago.

We're seeking to capture memories you have of attending events at the Opera House or frequenting businesses housed in the building?

• Did you attend a dance in the auditorium?

• Were you one of the many who roller-skated in the auditorium on Sunday nights?

Tells us about that.

What do you remember about Farmers Union Annual meetings? Or theatrical plays or shows that were frequently performed in the auditorium?

Many remember shopping at Randall's Grocery, Coleman Clothing, Coast-to-Coast or other businesses located in the building.

• What experiences come to mind?

• Did you attend a Boy Scout meeting there? Or a Girl Scout Day? Did you take part in a YCL Convention held in the auditorium?

What other social activities do you remember about our 'grand old building' that is being restored?

PLEASE Share with us!

You can share your memories with any of the present Board Members—Jeanette Robb (535-0442). Ken Schmierer (349-2490), Marilyn Burow (535-0774), Grant Crabtree (349-3633), Larry Davis (349-3917), Tom Rude (535-0623) or Executive Director Justin Meidinger (535-0347), drop a written copy off at Crabtree Insurance or mail them to O.P.E.R.A., Inc. P O Box 334, Ellendale, ND 58436.

Or visit www.ellendaleoperahouse.com and submit your comments/stories via the online form.

Or just visit with any of the people mentioned above over coffee at the local restaurants.

THANK YOU FOR SHARING!!!

Editor's Note: Below is a memory that may make you laugh...or cry. On stage at the Opera House Auditorium for the 'Little Miss Ellendale and Little Mr. Ellendale' contest. Contest was run a lot different back then and the picture has lost a lot of quality, but can you find the winner of Little Miss? She is wearing the crown and the lovely patent leather RED shoes. Yup, That's me! There are a lot of memories like this out there so think back to when you were a kid or teenager and events you may have been to at the Opera House.

The Opera Board would like to hear about happenings in the past at the Opera House

...Roberta Johnson

Annual Pie Social Tuesday, July 24th

The Annual Pie Social will be held at the Ellendale Historic Opera House Lobby on Tuesday, July 24th between the hours of 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Enjoy homemade pie (several kinds to choose from) with ice cream or whipped topping and a beverage for $4.00. Sit and visit in the air-conditioned lobby.

If you don't have time to stay, plan to pick up your pie and take it back to your office or home. Or pick up a second piece for later. Try more than one kind; they are all sure to be delicious!

Funds will be put toward the restoration of the historic building.

Babe Ruth Sectional Tournament In Ellendale - July 20-23

Teams: Ellendale, Oakes, Edgeley, Ashley, LaMoure, Valley City, Wishek/Linton, Steele & Carrington

Games start at 10:00 am and Continue All Day!

Debi Rogers to Perform at July's Concert in the Park

By Ken Schmierer

Debi Rogers will perform at the next Concert in the Park. Her concert will be held tonight, Thursday, July 19th at 7:00 p.m. at Ellendale's South Park.

Debi Rogers is a teller of tales, musician, actress, director, and artist-in-resident for the North Dakota Council on the Arts. With degrees in Theater Arts and Choral Music and numerous acting and directing roles to her credit, she's at home on the stage - from concert hall to school, outdoor festival to senior center, theatrical stage to Irish pub.

Debi was awarded a Fulbright to study in Japan, served as an artistic ambassador for North Dakota in Iceland and is a featured solo artist on the Prairie Public Television series, "North Dakota Musicians."

Through travels to Ireland and Scotland and from her master teachers Debi has learned a wide repertoire of Celtic (Kel-tic) songs, dances, tales and tunes which she incorporates into her residencies and performances.

Don't forget to bring chairs and friends and come out for a wonderful evening in the Park. Food Vendors will be available.

The Debi Rogers concert is brought to you by the Ellendale Foundation and the Ellendale Area Arts Council.

People's Store Presented City of Forbes $25,000

(l-r) Darci Wolff, City Auditor, City Counsel members: Ty Bertsch, Dan Brandenburger, Dennis Schrum, Mayor Karl Kronberg (accepting check from Ted), Ted Wolff, People's Store manager, People's Store board members, Judy McFarlane, Darlene Hauck and Duane Klipfel *(photo by Nancy Klipfel)*

By Ted Wolff

At the last People's Store Board Meeting the members voted to give the City of Forbes $25,000. Ted Wolff presented the check to the Forbes City Council at their July meeting.

The People's Store has been in business for 43 years. The beginning years were with some trying times. At one time we were broke. Thanks to a few people who donated their time for 6 to 8 months finally things got better. After the sausage business took off, we got financially in good shape. But now at the present time, we do not know what the future holds. We are trying to get it into private hands. Anyone interested you can give us a call at 1-605-358-8931.

We would like to thank the community for their years of support!

Shrine Football Game Featured EEK's Grueneich & Peterson

Clayton Scored East's First TD

Nathan in on Many Tackles

East Won 35-12!

Clayton Grueneich (#3 in blue), the Class 1A Senior Athlete of the Year, busted his way through West defenders for an 11-yard touchdown run.

Nathan Peterson (#44 in blue) shown in on the tackle of the West ball carrier!!

Clayton Grueneich and Nathan Peterson represented the Ellendale/Edgeley/Kulm Thunder, Ellendale High School and surrounding communities, as well as Edgeley and Kulm with pride and joy in the 2018 ND Shrine Bowl. From the pre-game introductions to the final buzzer, Clayton and Nathan wore smiles on their faces and they both played almost the entire game; the opportunity to play together once more.

(Thanks to Christy Peterson for photos)

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Ellendale Behavioral Health Taskforce Created

Jeff Fastnacht, EPS Superintendent

The impacts of behavioral health concerns impact all of us. It could be our neighbor, our friend, or a loved one. The negative impacts of these concerns have already impacted health care, EMS, churches, and the teachers in your community. This is not a BIG city concern. This is an everywhere concern and Ellendale is just one part of it. A discussion has already started on how we can work together to support and help. Are you willing to speak openly and honestly about it?

The Ellendale Behavioral Health Taskforce hopes you are ready to help. The taskforce was convened for the first time in January of this year. It was brought together by the leadership team at Ellendale School and included representatives from Prince of Peace Care Center, Dickey County Health, Dickey County Social Services, community counselors, teachers, and Ellendale School principals and Superintendent. The taskforce has met four times with the goal of identifying behavior health needs, identifying and unifying support systems that are presently available, and lastly working to determine what additional services are needed in our community.

Our work has been tremendously beneficial in connecting all the services in these separate agencies. However, we have progressed to the point that we need you. We need to discuss these issue with a larger group of stakeholders and community leaders. We believe that the community policy makers and concerned citizens now must engage in this discussion if we are going to truly help those in our community that are suffering. That is why we have scheduled a community forum. We are inviting all community boards, policy makers, and leaders to join us. We are inviting representatives from agencies in our community that deal with behavioral health concerns. We are inviting community members that wish to engage in this discussion. We have enlisted the help of Mrs. Jodi Bruns, Area Extension Specialist, to assist us in organizing this community discussion.

The forum will be held at 6:30pm on Wednesday, April 18th at the Ellendale School. We hope you can join us.

Roddy MacInnes, Photographer Introduces New Book "Family Album"

By Ken Schmierer

Roddy MacInnes will return to the Ellendale Opera house on Wednesday April 11th at 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM to discuss his photography and newest book called a Family Album. His book will be for sale at the Opera House. He will be available to sign and discuss his book in person. This event is free and the public is invited.

Roddy would love to see all his friends and students from Oakes, LaMoure and Ellendale who were in his Artist in Residence program. Roddy has had many shows throughout the world. Some of the most recent are listed below.

Though he's lived alternative lives as a merchant seaman, fur trader, bush pilot and minerals prospector, to name a few trades, Roddy MacInnes developed an eye and love for photography as a boy in Scotland, and it's become his oeuvre and daily diary as the years have passed. A keen documentarian of everyday life and personal ties, MacInnes has now collected some of that ongoing visual memoir in Family Album, a new book with a time-machine twist: His own family photos are juxtaposed with images from an album kept by North Dakotan Nina Weiste, circa 1917, that he found and fell in love with at a flea market.

Roddy explains, "The value of photographs was apparent to me at a young age.

The recollection of my family arranging and re-arranging themselves in front of the camera to memorialize happy events had a profound effect on the way I perceive the world. Since 1965, with varying levels of consciousness, I have been using photography to construct a reality of who and where I think I am."

Roddy is brought to the Historic Ellendale Opera House by the Humanities ND, Opera Inc. and the Ellendale Area Arts Council.

Roddy MacInnes most recent shows:

· "Interpretations of the Same Place" Atlantic Center, Isle of Luing, Scotland.

· "Two-Way Mirror"Regis University, Denver, Colorado

· "Jim River"Dairy Center for the Arts, Boulder, Colorado.

· "The Cell Phone Never Lies" Two Hands Gallery. Boulder, Colorado 2010

· "The Cell Phone Never Lies" The Opera House Gallery of Art, Ellendale, N.D.

· "Jim River" Les Photographes Gallery. Paris, France 2009

· "Making History" The Opera House Gallery of Art, Ellendale, N.D.

· "REMEMBERING DAKOTA" North Dakota Museum of Art, Grand Forks, N.D.

· "JIM RIVER, SAD BUT SYMPATHETIC" 2 The Opera House Gallery of Art, Ellendale, N.D.

·"JIMRIVER,SADBUTSYMPATHETIC" 2 Dakotah Prairie Musem, Aberdeen, S.D. 2007

· "ANDI, AN EXTENDED PORTRAIT" Instituto de Artes de Medellin, Medellin, Colombia, South America

·"JIMRIVER,SADBUTSYMPATHETIC" The Arts Center, Jamestown, N.D.

· Corps of Discovery Museum, Yankton, S.D

Plan on stopping over at the Ellendale Opera House Lobby and Gallery; meet and greet Roddy and welcome him back to Ellendale!

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Submitted Article

Each year in April we celebrate Sexual Assault Awareness Month to help raise public awareness about sexual violence and to educate communities and individuals.

The theme for this year is "Embrace Your Voice". The theme last year centered on "Engaging New Voices". We all need to realize our words shape the world around us and how we talk about sexual violence matters. We also need to learn how to use our voices to make a true impact and become an agent for change.

In recent months we've heard more and more about sexual assault and harassment. The #MeToo, shared with the world that they had experienced sexual assault or harassment. #MeToo moved from a hashtag to a phenomenon; to a movement, empowering many and raising that all-too important question: Where do we go from here? How can we keep the momentum alive and use the attention and energy generated by #MeToo to drive greater cultural change?

In the last few months the one recent event that has made the movement visible to a wider audience has been the sexual harassment and assault allegations starting with Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein, which led to his subsequent ousting and his company filing for bankruptcy. There have been many others since then, some have denied this behavior and others have acknowledged their behavior. Many saw nothing wrong with it as long as no one had the courage to say anything.

It was suggested that if all women who have been sexually harassed or assaulted wrote "Me Too" as a status, it might give people a sense of the magnitude of the problem. And people did! The hashtag was tweeted nearly a million times in just 48 hours. It then jumped to Facebook, where it was shared more than 12 million times in 24 hours.

Don't know that there were a lot of surprises as to the multitude of victims that responded to any of us that have worked in this field for a long time. We knew there were many who had experienced sexual assault or harassment that felt they did not have a voice to tell what had happened to them or they would not be believed if they did tell. This type of violence thrives on silence, and one of the first steps to preventing sexual violence is talking about it.

We have found many people who have never shared their stories before have come forward online or in person and are now sharing. In sharing they have found a community of other survivors. Many victims believe they are the only one this has happened to or somehow think it was their fault and say nothing. The important part of all of this is that at least some of the people who have committed sexual offenses are starting to be held accountable no matter how high their profile or how much money they have.

Change has started but it has a long ways to go. We all have a unique role to play in prevention and changing the culture that exists. When we reflect on and change how we think and talk about the issue of sexual violence and consent and what harassment is, we can create a culture of respect, equality and safety. All of our voices have power. It's time for everyone to find that voice and embrace it.

If you have any questions about harassment or sexual assault and may want further information or resources that are available contact Kedish House Domestic Violence Program at 701-349-4729.

Coach Kevin Gall Reaches 500 Victories

Congratulations to Coach Kevin Gall for reaching 500 Career Victories. Kevin is the Women's Softball Coach at the University of Jamestown (Jamestown, ND). He recorded his 500th victory in a win over Dordt College March 14th. Coach Gall's women's softball team is enjoying an outstanding year with a 25-6 record to date. Their latest win (to press date of the paper) was a 3-1 victory over Valley City.

Kevin Gall returned for his 18th season as head coach for Jimmie softball in the 2017-18 school year.

The Jimmies tied a program record with 41 wins in 2017 and won the North Star Athletic Association postseason championship. It marked the first time in 25 years Jamestown had qualified for the NAIA Naitonal Tournament.

Gall's teams have produced 68 All-Conference players, seven NAIA All-Region infielders and three NAIA All-Region outfielders. He was named the conference's Coach of the Year in 2001, 2005, 2009, and 2012, and Region III Coach of the Year in 2005.

During his seventeen seasons as coach, Gall's career record was 481-312 and to date his record is ???

Additionally, Gall serves as a member of the National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA).

Gall grew up in Ellendale, N.D. He earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education and physical education from Jamestown College in 1993.

He and his wife, Jennifer have three children--daughter Payton and twin sons, Ethan and Preston.

Kevin is another successful Ellendale

High School graduate and the son of Dee-Anne and Earl Gall of Ellendale.

EPS Casper Carnival Offered Something for Everyone

Photos by Angel Caro

Opera House Display Draws Unusual Visitors

By Ken Smith, Dickey County Leader

On a sunny Saturday morning, April 21, vacationing Hollywood photographer Robert Sebree (left) and retired Casselton dentist Gerald Parker came by to examine the Beau Theige homemade guitar collection that was on display at the Opera House. Sebree, who has himself built a collection of homemade guitars, was intrigued and delighted by the Theige collection (beauguitar.com). Ken Schmierer also provided the guests with an informative tour of the Opera House building, complete with reminisces and historical overview.

As a highly respected photographer, (sebreephoto.com), Robert also viewed and provided insights into a collection of prints from one-of-a-kind historic glass plate negatives taken by Elmer Thompson in and around Ellendale over 100 years ago. These Thompson photos, most of which have never been seen in public, will form the core of a gallery display to be held at the Opera House in September.

Robert's first visit to Ellendale two years ago included a tour of the Coleman Museum, where he was Gerald's guest. Gerald, who devotes much of his time to local history, has been a good friend of Ellendale for several years, and continues to assist with projects here. These two unusual people are a good example of the countless fine friendships Ellendale has made through the many artistic and historical displays, performances and special programs hosted here over the years.

(Photo by Ken Smith)

EHS Students Advance to State Music Contest in May

The 68th Annual North Dakota State Science and Engineering Fair was held in Grand Forks on April 5-6.

Students participating in the State Science Fair were: 7th Grade – Hannah Seefeld, Brett Hahne / 8th Grade - Scott Wagner / 9th Grade - Josh Olson, Jacob Russell / 10th Grade - Brandon Hahne

Awards received:

Joshua Olson: Department of Chemical Engineering Award, North Dakota Physics Teachers Award

Jacob Russell: American Meteorological Society, Navy Award, Air Force Award

Hannah Seefeld: 2nd place overall-Southeast Central Region, North Dakota Soil Conservation/ Auxiliary

All students did a wonderful job and should be congratulated for their efforts!

Pictured from left to right are: Ms. Moe, Brett Hahne, Brandon Hahne, Scott Wagner, Jacob Russell, Joshua Olson, Hannah Seefeld, and Mrs. Middlestead

(Submitted photo)

It's Time to Clean Up Yards in Ellendale

Looks like the snow is finally out of the picture so time to think about our yards and area around our homes and businesses. The City is having their annual City-Wide Clean up days May 7th and 8th. The details are shown on page 4 of this issue. Check it out!

The late wintery days with temps pretty low and moisture arriving every day has pushed back a lot of our ideas for things we want done around our homes and businesses. Now is the time. You have some nice days ahead so get that cleaning and collecting of unwanted items done now and get things out to your boulevard areas and the City Crew will be around to pick it all up. You will do part of the work and the City Crew will finish with their pickup.

Lets get busy and make things looks nice in Ellendale. Won't be long as we'll be out mowing and trimming as well. All things that help make our community look nice for all of us and our visitors.

NDSU Extension Pruning Demonstration Held Last Week

It's pruning time!

NDSU Extension Agent Breana Kiser (2nd from right) and Master Gardener Ginger Petersen (3rd from left) wrapping up a practical hands-on lesson on spring tree pruning at the community fruit garden across the street from the Presbyterian United Methodist Church, April 26. Anyone wanting advice on pruning or other gardening-related decisions is welcome to call Breana at (701) 349-3249. The Extension is in Ellendale to serve. Breana can help, or put you in touch with other qualified experts and all the information you need for successful gardening as well as livestock care.

Also, the whole community is invited to wander the garden, and when the fruit comes ripe, to sample the mature product. ***(Photo by Ken Smith)***

Bowling Scores

Newcomers Mixed

Farmers Union Ins. 45-11
Prairie Floral 34-22
Barton Heating & A/C 30-26
Dawn's Day Care 25.5-30.5
American Legion 18-38
Pheasant Lanes. 15.5-40.5

High Game (Men): Dana Geller 256, Chris Robey 201, Mat Koschney 195. (Women): Lisa Lewis 194, Andrea Hiles 156, Nichole McDowell 155. High Series (Men): Dana Geller 624, Chris Robey 558, Mat Koschney 501 High Series (Women): Lisa Lewis 474. Karman Furman 414, Andrea Hiles 396.

Early Bird

Bollinger Farms 41-11
Jay's Furniture 31-21
Ranch House 28-24
Dummies 22-30
Fireside. 19.5-32.5
Phyllis' Angels 14.5-37.5

High Game: Angie Bollinger 194, Lisa Lewis 165, Alexius Thorpe 161. High Series: Angie Bollinger 486, Lisa Lewis 459, Michele Thorpe 408.

ABBREVIATED NOTICE OF INTENT TO AMEND ADMINISTRATIVE RULES
relating to
N.D.A.C. Chapter 75-02-04, Child Support Division and 75-02-04.2 State Disbursement Unit

North Dakota Department of Human Services
will hold a public hearing to address proposed changes to the N.D. Admin. Code.

Room 210
Second Floor
Judicial Wing
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND
Thurs., May 31, 2018
9:00 a.m.

Copies of the proposed rules are available for review at county social services offices and human service centers. Copies of the proposed rules and the regulatory analysis relating to these rules may be requested by telephoning (701) 328-2311. Written or oral data, views, or arguments may be entered at the hearing or sent to: Rules Administrator, North Dakota Department of Human Services, State Capitol – Judicial Wing, 600 East Boulevard Ave., Dept. 325, Bismarck, ND 58505-0250. Written data, views, or arguments must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 11, 2018. If you plan to attend the hearing and will need special facilities or assistance relating to a disability, please contact the Department of Human Services at the above telephone number or address at least two weeks prior to the hearing.

Dated this 24th day of April 2018.

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